

Lebanese strife enters 16th year

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces skirmished with machine guns for control of their city on Friday as the country's civil war entered its 16th year and the Arab League made a new effort to settle the strife. Police said no casualties were reported on the 73rd day of fighting between troops of rebel General Michel Aoun and soldiers of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces for control of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave. Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria would "soon provide Lebanon with assistance to equip its armed forces and activate its economy." He added, on a condition of anonymity, that the two also discussed "ways of eliminating difficulties preventing implementation of the Taif accord." Brahimi, who arrived in Beirut late Thursday, said he is to hold talks with other Lebanese government and militia leaders, but not with Aoun, who had rejected the Taif accord altogether as a "part of capitulation."

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Israeli navy sinks dinghy

TYRE (AP) — An Israeli gunboat opened fire at a rubber boat carrying three Palestinians off the South Lebanon coast overnight, sinking it, security sources said Friday. One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Israeli gunboat intercepted the dinghy at 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) Thursday off the coast opposite the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah south of Tyre. He said Israeli sailors "shouted orders to the three guerrillas aboard the dinghy to surrender. Then opened fire from machine guns. The guerrillas did not return fire and the dinghy was sunk. The fate of the guerrillas couldn't be determined." In Israel, an army spokesman said a navy patrol boat "spotted a suspicious object in the water. It opened fire and searched the area afterwards but nothing was found. As a result of the boat's actions, gunfire was opened on the boat from the coast."

Spain holds Iranians on drug charges

MADRID (R) — Four Iranians were arrested late Thursday in connection with a nine-kg heroin haul, police said. One of the men was detained after arriving from Paris by train. Police found 18 bags each containing 0.5 kg of heroin hidden in his luggage. Police said three Iranians with whom he was to make contact in Madrid were arrested later.

Cyprus tightens airport security

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus said Friday it had tightened airport security because it feared attacks by extremists on Soviet Aeroflot planes carrying Jewish emigrants bound for Israel. "Security forces have taken strict measures at Larnaca airport following information that an attack could be staged against Aeroflot planes taking Soviet Jews to Israel," a government statement said. It gave no further details and added there was no truth in a report by the Soviet news agency TASS Friday, which said there had been an attempted attack on an Aeroflot plane at Larnaca. TASS later said Cypriot police escorted Jewish passengers from Larnaca to Limassol port where they boarded a ship which was said to be sailing for the Jewish state under the protection of an Israeli warship.

S. Yemenis protest over defeat of Aden governor

ADEN (R) — Six thousand South Yemenis took to the streets Friday to protest against the defeat of the popular governor of the capital, Aden, in a delayed election. They accused the ruling Socialist Party of postponing the vote for more than five months in order to put its own candidate in the job. Othman Khamarani was elected Wednesday to replace Governor Naji Othman Ahmad. Local sources said that Ahmad had been widely expected to resign his post if the vote had been held on schedule in November. The official Aden News Agency said 6,000 people took part in the protest. They dispersed peacefully on police orders. The demonstration was the largest since South Yemen adopted political pluralism last year in preparation for a merger with North Yemen.

British prison siege drags on

MANCHESTER (AP) — Two more prisoners surrendered to police at Strangeways prison Friday, leaving fewer than 13 rebel inmates still holding out in a 13-day siege that has killed at least one person, the Home Office said. Several inmates remained on the prison roof, whistling and shouting to scores of spectators in the streets below in the standoff that followed a riot last night. The riot was described as the worst since the prison was built in 1875. It claimed that had been dead bodies inside, but others insisted there had been no deaths. The only person confirmed dead as a result of injuries suffered in the riot was a prisoner of seriously sustaining three children.

Holy City should be united with Arab sovereignty in east King: No compromise on Arab rights in Jerusalem

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview broadcast Friday that Jerusalem should be kept united and given special status, but with Arab sovereignty over the Arab sector of the city.

In the interview with the American Cable News Agency (CNN) and carried by Jordan Television, the King criticized a recent non-binding resolution by the U.S. Senate that recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Jerusalem is "too important an issue to be dealt with as a political pawn," the King said. "It is too great a city to be only the capital of Israel."

Jews stay entrenched in church property

Jerusalem marks Easter under a cloud of Israeli violence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Pilgrims from around the world marked Good Friday in Jerusalem under a cloud of Israeli violence against Christian clergymen.

Israeli forces maintained a heavy presence in Arab Jerusalem, where hundreds of pilgrims carried heavy wooden crosses through the streets of the Old City to commemorate the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

The takeover by 150 Jews of a huge 72-room complex close to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, guarded by dozens of police and paramilitary border guards, overshadowed a day holy to both Christians and Muslims, stoking Israel-Palestinian tensions.

Pilgrims from around the world, some reading the bible as their guide, walked in the footsteps of Jesus to the traditional site of his crucifixion in the heart of the walled Old City's Christian quarter.

There was no repeat of Thursday's violence in which Israeli forces fired tear-gas and charged clergymen and stone-throwing Palestinians protesting against the Jewish settlers.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I was overcome by the gas and collapsed, witnesses said. The chain holding a cross around his neck was broken.

Several other clerics were overcome by tear-gas, the witnesses

of Israel. The King indicated he favoured giving the city "special status" in any Arab-Israeli peace settlements.

"In the context of peace, one does not envisage that Jerusalem would be divided, yet at the same time Arab sovereignty over the Arab part of the city has to be assured," the King said.

He said in such a way, "the rights of Christians and Muslims and Jews can be safeguarded."

The King repeated earlier warnings that without action towards a peace settlement "we are coming to a very dangerous crossroads very very soon," which could lead to an upsurge of extremism both in Israel and the Arab World.

Candle-lit protest

Meanwhile, some 500 people staged a candlelight protest across the street from the U.S. embassy in Amman Friday night.

The protest action was organized by the Amman chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and with the participation of Islamic as well as Christian clergymen and organisations. It

aimed at registering a protest at new Israeli settlements in Arab Jerusalem and the use of Israeli violence against Christian clergymen in the Holy City Thursday night.

Marchers waved placards reading "Enter Russian Jews, exit Christians," "Jesus is Palestinian," and "Jerusalem for all, not only armed Zionists."

Armed police kept watch from a distance at the peaceful, silent protest at the end of which a senior representative of the American embassy received a memorandum addressed to the American administration.

Qasem due in Syria; Baathist rift seen on agenda

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The latest developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations are expected to top the agenda for talks today in Damascus between Syrian leaders and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who pays a visit to the Syrian capital for the first time since the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran assumed office in December.

Speculation was rife here Friday that one of the topics for Qasem's talks in Damascus was efforts for reconciliation between Iraq and Syria following what many political observers interpreted as encouraging statements by Baghdad and Damascus over the last week.

The signals were crystallised with a statement made in Paris by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa last week. Referring to the ongoing war of words between Iraq and Israel after Baghdad warned that it would use chemical weapons to retaliate if the Jewish state attacked Iraq, Sharaa said Syria would support Iraq against Israeli threats, hinting at a possible thaw in what one official described as "very frosty" relations.

Sharaa expressed his country's "solidarity with any Arab state facing Israeli threats... because we consider Israel, which has occupied many Arab territories, as the common enemy of all Arabs."

"We have this solidarity regardless of differences that we may have with some Arab countries," he said. A public rally organised in Amman Wednesday in support of Iraq hailed the Syrian stand.

The Syrian-Iraqi rift originated in differences between the two wings of the Arab Socialist Baathist Party. The two rival wings are in power in Baghdad and Damascus.

Signs that Baghdad might also be willing to mend its fences with Damascus and end the decade-old rift came in a statement issued by the ruling Iraqi Baath Party on the occasion of its 43rd anniversary. The statement appeared to have carefully skirted any criticism of Syria.

In a message sent in March to the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament in answer to its appeal for Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein demanded that Syria withdraw its troops from Lebanon and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad apologise to the Arab World for supporting Iran in the Gulf war.

During his visit to Damascus, Qasem is expected to hold talks with President Assad as well as Sharaa and other senior officials. His discussions follow intense

Dole to push for reversal of resolution on Jerusalem

By Salameh B. Ne'matt with agency dispatches

AMMAN — In a surprise shift at the end of his Middle East tour, U.S. Senator Republican leader Robert Dole said Friday he would push for the Senate to reverse a resolution recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Dole, who arrived in Israel earlier in the day, told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir he planned to push for a reversal of the resolution following his tour of Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

"One thing that we did discuss in the Arab countries was that they are very upset about a Senate resolution which in effect says that Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel," Dole said in an interview with CBS Television.

"I told Prime Minister Shamir that it was a mistake and that I would try to correct that next week," Dole added.

A senior Jordanian official and a U.S. diplomat said Friday the shift in Dole's position was influenced by his talks in Amman with His Majesty King Hussein and Jordanian officials. The change of mind was also reflected in a statement he gave to Jordan Television and was broadcast Thursday. Following their talks with the

King Wednesday, the senators were greeted with a protest gathering outside their hotel and vehement criticism in the press. The senior official told the Jordan Times that during talks with King Hussein, who explained the gravity of the Senate resolution, senators said they were not aware of the importance that Arab states held for the status of Jerusalem.

The official said the senators said they were busy with other matters when the resolution was voted, hinting that they were not aware of its importance.

He added that the lawmakers sought to soften criticism over their resolution by making up excuses for their decision.

A senior U.S. diplomat withheld comment on how much influence the senators' visit to Amman had on their change of heart on the Jerusalem issue. But he said he was very happy with the visit and its outcome. "I agree that (the U.S. senators') visit was very positive and beneficial," he said.

Responding to a question by Jordan Television over the Senate resolution, Dole said: "Well, as I told His Majesty, we will correct the record when we return. I think there is a lot of misunderstanding about the par-

ticular resolution, and it was rather meaningless at the time, but it had such an impact as he indicated and as (Egyptian) President (Hosni) Mubarak indicated, but I think you will see appropriate statements made. Our policy is, my policy is, the administration policy is, that (Jerusalem) remain an undivided city and everything else be negotiated — the status and so forth. That's our policy."

Avi Pazner, top aide to Shamir said that Dole mentioned his views on the Senate decision during the meeting with the caretaker prime minister of Israel but did not elaborate. Pazner did not characterise Shamir's response.

The status of Jerusalem became a source of U.S.-Israeli tensions after President George Bush in early March publicly restated the U.S. view that Israel's annexation of the Arab part of the city was not valid.

The Senate then adopted a non-binding resolution stating the view that Jerusalem should be Israel's capital.

In an interview published in Friday's Jerusalem Post newspaper, Dole defended his call for a five per cent cut in U.S. aid to major recipients, of which Israel is the largest, to support new democracies in Eastern Europe.

British firm says theory of Iraqi super gun is absurd

LONDON (Agencies) — A British steel firm alleged to be helping Iraq to make one of the world's biggest guns clashed with the government Friday over whether Baghdad's order with it for steel pipe castings was legal.

Military experts said eight pipe sections confiscated by British customs might be used to build a gun with a 40-metre barrel, enabling Iraq to fire nuclear or chemical missiles into major Israeli or Iranian cities.

Sheffield Forgemasters said in a statement that the eight sections were part of a larger consignment for Iraq's petrochemical industry and 44 similar pipes had already been delivered with government approval.

But customs officials and Defence Ministry experts said the pipes, which were put on public display at the northern English port of Middlesbrough, could be used to make a massive gun

barrel and came under British export restrictions.

Forgemasters insisted that it had full Department of Trade and Industry permission for the Iraqi order which British officials are now investigating. The department blocked an earlier Iraqi weapons order with Forgemasters.

British customs confiscated the finely-machined sections two weeks after seizing U.S. electrical components bound for Baghdad which could be used as nuclear triggers.

Iraq, which executed British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft last month on spying charges, said the moves were part of "a feverish orchestrated campaign" against it by Britain and Israel.

Television news bulletins ran clips from a promotional video by Forgemasters recording the manufacture of the castings.

"Companies seeking to export products illegally do not make a complete record of their illicit operation on video nor do they use that self-same video for promotional purposes," said company spokesman Tony Peck.

He described as absurd and far-fetched allegations that the pipes could be used to make the barrel of what the British press has called a "doomsday gun."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told U.S. senators Thursday Iraq had nothing to hide over

armaments and would dismantle chemical weapons if Israel, Iran or other Middle East states also scrapped arsenals of mass destruction.

President Hussein's remarks, made in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul to a U.S. Senate delegation headed by Republican leader Robert Dole, were relayed to reporters by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Iraq, the president said, had no nuclear or germ warfare arms and regarded its binary chemical weapons — the modern form of poison gas — as an effective deterrent to atomic or bacteriological attack from Israel.

"If Israel... uses nuclear weapons against Iraq, Iraq will use binary chemical weapons and we have nothing to hide in this respect," Hussein said.

He told the U.S. delegation Iraq could not dismantle its chemical weapons "so long as Israel owns nuclear and bacteriological weapons and unless a general dismantling of such weapons by all countries of the region, including Iran, takes place," Aziz said.

Aziz said: "We told one of the five-member Senate delegation: 'You got a clear statement from President Saddam Hussein, expressing the readiness of Iraq and other Arab states to dismantle weapons of mass destruction... can you get a similar commitment from Zionist leaders?'"

Hourani urges 'qualitative shift' in Jordan-Palestine ties

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday called for defining long-term joint Jordanian-Palestinian goals and severely criticised the Soviet Union over its policy of Jewish emigration.

Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank in July 1988, and the democratisation process which it began last year have created conditions which warrant "a qualitative shift" in relations between Jordan and the PLO, said Abdullah Hourani, a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

But Hourani, who arrived here on Thursday as part of a PLO delegation preparing for an official visit by Palestine President Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, said the Jordanian and PLO leaderships as well as the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples should define the nature of the future relationship.

"If we do believe that a Jordanian-Palestinian association is inevitable then we should define the nature of the current relationship and joint goals as well as the future of the relationships," he told the Jordan Times.

"Accordingly we can then outline joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves, but if we have clear vision of the future relationship the joint moves would be then linked

to a strategic goal," he explained. Hourani did not confine his assessment to any specific formula such as a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation but he implied that a serious, pre-determined goal should be the basis of Jordanian-Palestinian relationship or action.

Asked whether it meant that the PLO had not formulated a specific vision of the nature of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Hourani said: "This is a question that should be posed not to the PLO alone."

He said the means of developing relations between Jordan and the PLO on the basis of a pre-determined shape would be the focus of discussion between His Majesty King Hussein and Arafat, who is expected to arrive here in the next few days.

On Jewish immigration to Israel and the possibility that tens of thousands of Soviet Jews could be settled in the occupied territories, Hourani levelled the harshest Palestinian criticism of the Soviet Union over its policy of emigration. He accused Moscow of ignoring and undermining the Palestinian people's right to self-determination by allowing a mass exodus of Jewish emigrants to Israel.

"There is no doubt that when Moscow took its decision regarding Soviet Jewish migration it was mainly motivated by its interests and did not take into consideration the interests and the national rights of the Palestinian people," said Hourani, who was known in the past for strongly defending Moscow's policies in the Middle East. "I believe that the Soviets were aware that such a decision would have dangerous repercussions on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and I can even go as far as to say that they were aware that

such a decision was hostile to the Palestinian people," he charged.

He explained, however, that the PLO was not denying or ignoring its friendship with the Soviet Union but that he believed that the Soviet stand contradicted Moscow's avowed concern for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

"The Soviet Union does not stop reiterating its concern for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Yet it is aware that its policy undermines the essence of this right," he said.

Hourani said the PLO had hoped that the Soviet Union would link relaxed emigration procedures for Soviet Jews with progress in efforts to settle the Palestinian problem and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict as well as Israel's position towards peace efforts and Palestinian rights.

He said, however, that the PLO and Moscow were continuing consultations to contain the impact of massive Soviet Jewish emigration on Palestinian rights and prospects for peace in the Middle East.

One of the alternatives suggested by the PLO is that Moscow should issue its own documents to Soviet Jewish emigrants with a view to facilitating a choice of destination for them. At present, Israel issues them laissez passers which confine the choice of destination to the Jewish state.

The PLO, Hourani added, was also discussing with the Soviet possibilities for a repeal of a 1967 law which strips Soviet Jews of their Soviet citizenship when they emigrate to Israel. The cancellation of the law, he said, will enable those who would like to return to their homeland if they choose so in the future.

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Near the gamblers, losers of Lebanese conflict try to survive

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — Beneath the glitz of the casino where Lebanese gamblers through 15 years of civil war, the losers in the conflict seek to survive.

Refugee Fadia Homadi has lived in the basement of the now shell-shattered building since she was 12 years old. She moved in for safety when war erupted. She is now 27.

Roulette stopped abruptly at the Casino of Lebanon last January during the run-up to the latest bout of the war, which entered its 16th year Friday.

The gaming chips were stolen. A Lebanese flag and pictures of saints hang on the dirty walls of the dark garage which is home for "Fadia's family. One floor above their heads, the casino burgundy carpet is being soaked with rain pouring through shell-holes in the roof.

The shells were fired by the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia in February at General Michel Aoun's troops holding the casino north of Beirut. The soldiers were driven out and army shells now hit what is left as militia artillery batter its nearby.

"We are lucky to be here," says Fadia, "The LF allowed us to stay here although one of my brothers is on the other side — in the army. We came here when the war began in 1975 because my father worked here. It is safe here, we couldn't stay at home."

Home was the poor Christian east Beirut neighbourhood of Ain Al Roumanneh, which was mauled in savage LF-army battles in February and where Lebanon's civil war is officially recognised as having begun on April 13, 1975.

Christian militiamen killed 27 Palestinians on a bus in Ain Al Roumanneh that day. The ambush, supposedly in revenge for the killing of four Christian guards, led to fighting between the Christians, Muslims and Palestinian gunmen.

In the war since then, with alliances shifting and foreign powers intervening and withdrawing, an estimated 130,000 people have been killed and more than 300,000 wounded. Damage estimated to need \$15 billion to put right was inflicted on the economy.

But it is the latest fighting — unprecedented conflict between

Christians since Jan. 31 — which has for many Lebanese finally killed their few remaining hopes of peace.

More than 950 were killed and at least 3,000 wounded after the Christians — traditionally the richest and most influential community which had sided with the army — started to kill each other.

Ain Al Roumanneh was wrecked by Christians — not by their old enemies, Palestinians, Muslims or even Syrians.

Fadia is among a million displaced Lebanese — perhaps one in three of the country's population. Exact figures are unavailable because of the chaos of war and the fact that the last census was conducted in 1932.

"The most striking phenomenon here for me is the fragmentation. I never believed any country could divide into so many small and still antagonistic pieces," said one Western diplomat.

"The Christians did relatively well in difficult situation for the last 15 years," LF leader Samir Geagea told Reuters. "At least we survived this period in order to resume our national life sometime."

"But General Aoun cancelled this... the population has paid

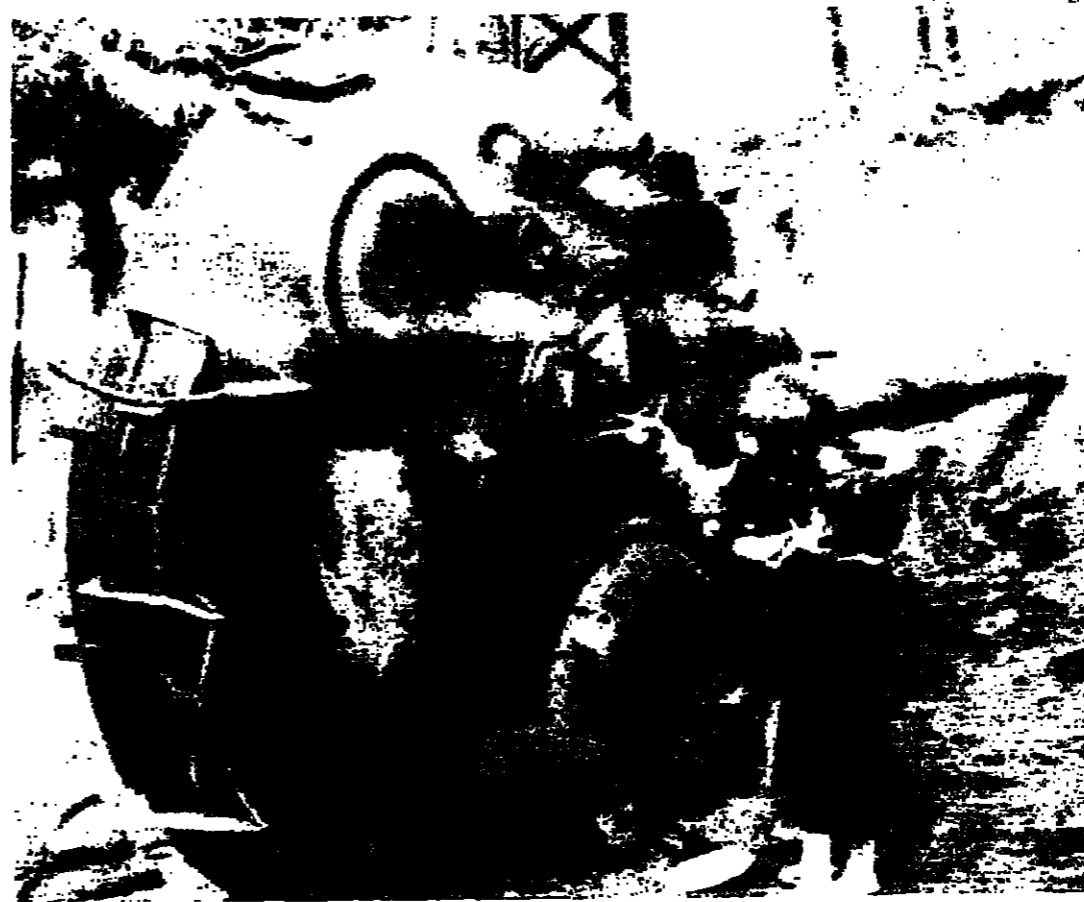
what General Aoun wanted. What has been done has been done and we should look to the future."

Aoun equally bitterly blames Geagea for the latest fighting which spawned a massive exodus of families who still love their country but know they can no longer live there. Some 250,000 Lebanese are believed to have left for abroad in the last year.

The country they left is a sad parody of that before civil war. Then Beirut was famed as the cross roads of the West and Middle East. Now rival armies and militias control each city block. The shattered heart of the capital is choked with undergrowth and mines planted in 1975.

In an offshoot to the anarchy, countless people have been kidnapped for political and other ends. Some have been freed, some killed. Seventeen westerners are still being held by pro-Iranian militants. Hundreds of Lebanese are missing.

An Arab sponsored peace plan holds that more politicians think is a last chance of ending the war but few civilians think peace is round the corner. Instead they struggle to survive from day-to-day under the constant threat of more bloodshed.



Two young Lebanese girls play with a burned tank's top

Arabs fear U.S. using foreign aid for votes to kill Zionism resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.S. ambassador says Washington is less likely than ever to use foreign aid to win votes in the General Assembly, but Arab envoys fear a U.S. arm-twisting campaign to rescind the "Zionism-is-racism" resolution is imminent.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering says the practice of linking foreign aid to U.N. votes "never rose to massive proportions, and the fact is that there is less focus now on scorecarding in aid than there was before."

"I don't think at this stage one can say this is completely a dead letter," he said, "but I don't see it rising to high prominence. ... I don't believe there is such overwhelming interest in it."

"I think we, in fact, should give assistance where we believe it is in our broad foreign policy interests to do so, all factors considered," Pickering said.

Arab envoys said this week that they fear Washington will try to pressure U.S. foreign aid recipients to join its campaign to rescind the 1975 General Assembly resolution that calls Zionism a form of racism.

Pickering did not comment on the Zionism-racism resolution or Arab statements that some U.S. lawmakers were ready to penalise those who break with the U.S. line.

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle said in December that the United States wants to overturn the resolution in the forthcoming 45th General Assembly. But

Western diplomats said the United States did not intend to proceed unless it was certain of victory.

Pickering made his remarks on March 30 as he released the seventh annual State Department report on U.N. voting practices, which he said showed that U.S. foreign policy is gaining greater support in the General Assembly.

Congress asked for annual reports beginning in 1974, at a time of deep ideological conflict between East and West, and between the developed and Third World nations, and when name-calling against the United States was rampant in the General Assembly.

Lawmakers intended to use the report as a tool in assessing support for U.S. positions and in helping determine levels of foreign aid.

To date, however, it has not been seen as a major factor in aid decisions. Its methodology was widely criticised for focusing on only 10 key issues and failing to consider the increase of consensus decisions in the world body.

The latest report looks at 16 key votes and includes consensus decisions on issues considered vital to the United States, such as Afghanistan.

Last week, Arab League Ambassador Clovis Makoud told reporters that some influential U.S. lawmakers appear ready to use U.S. aid to force nations to join the U.S. effort to nullify the Zionism-racism resolution.

"We are on the threshold of

witnessing a campaign of intimidation against various countries," he said. Nations that oppose the United States or which abstained from voting would become "the targets for harassment, diplomatic and financial pressure," he said.

To support his statement, he quoted from a transcript of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's comments at a March 30 hearing of the Near Eastern and Asian Affairs Subcommittee. Moynihan, a Democrat from New York and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is the chairman of the subcommittee.

Moynihan said U.S. aid to foreign countries could be jeopardised if those countries voted against the U.S. drive to overturn the resolution.

"We have a list of who the aid recipients are and how the vote was. And do they understand their aid is in jeopardy? I mean, enough is enough."

"What does it mean to Chile? What does it mean to Sri Lanka? Whose business is it in the Ivory Coast to cause instability in the Middle East?"

Moynihan called resolution "a low point" in U.N. behaviour and an attempt to politicise the General Assembly.

The State Department voting report shows almost 70 per cent of all U.N. political resolutions were unanimously approved by the 44th General Assembly last fall, compared with 64 per cent the year before, 60 per cent in 1987 and 58 per cent in 1986.

Relief sent deeper into Ethiopian rebel areas

NAIROBI (R) — A consortium of church relief agencies trucking food across the battle lines of northern Ethiopia has extended its operation deep into rebel-held areas, a senior relief official said Friday.

John Winter, director of Catholic Relief Services in Ethiopia, told Reuters by telephone from Addis Ababa the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP) had been trucking food to Alamana, 220 kilometres inside rebel territory.

The JRP operation, which began on March 20, had previously only reached Kobo, 40 kilometres further south.

Winter said the JRP was operating 60 trucks across the military lines from Dessie the capital of Wollo province.

Some 3,600 tonnes of food had already been moved into the rebel-held area and the JRP was now trucking 270 tonnes a day across the frontline with the consent of government and the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), he added.

Winter said the JRP was trying to arrange for United Nations engineers to repair the road north of Alamana so that relief trucks could move into rebel-held Tigray province, the area worst hit by last year's drought.

Once the road into Tigray is open, the JRP will add a further 70 trucks to its fleet, he said.

An officially estimated 4.5 million people face starvation in northern Ethiopia this year due to the combined effects of drought and civil war. Relief officials say at least half of them live in rebel-held areas.

Winter said JRP reconnaissance teams had found people suffering "acute hunger" in northern Tigray, but the situation there was not yet desperate.

"Hunger is acute. There is no doubt about it and time is ticking away. These people are wondering if food aid will ever come," Winter told Reuters. "It is not yet a question of life and death, but it is acute."

Relief officials who asked not to be named, said the relief wing of the TPLF was managing to supply some food aid to northern Tigray by trucking in surplus grain from other parts of the province and food from neighbouring Sudan.

But this was insufficient to meet the demand, they added.

While some arrangements have been made to supply food aid to areas of northern Ethiopia occupied by the TPLF and its allies, a critical situation is developing further north in Eritrea.

Iran dismisses Iraq's anti-Israel stand

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Friday dismissed recent Iraqi threats to attack Israel as a ploy to divert world attention from immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a message read on Tehran Radio, accused most Arab leaders of acquiescing to the immigration as part of a worldwide plot to splinter the Jewish state and keep the Palestinians "forever enslaved."

"The false campaign about fighting Israel launched by the leaders of the Iraqi regime ... serves to cover up the treason committed over the Palestinian

issue by the silence of the Arab governments... and to overshadow the important issue of the transfer of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine," Khamenei said.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein vowed on April 2 to destroy half of Israel in retaliation for any Israeli attack on Iraq, sparking counter-threats by the Jewish state and concern in Western countries.

Khamenei said Iraq, which fought a war with Iran from 1980 to 1988, would not attack Israel. "Everyone knows that the Baathist Iraqi regime will never use the weapons it has obtained

from the superpowers against Israel, which itself lives under the shadow of the superpowers," he said. "It will not use them except in the service of arrogance (big powers) or to blackmail the rich in the region."

He made no reference to an offer by Hussein Thursday that Iraq was ready to dismantle its chemical arms if Iran and Israel would also scrap their weapons of mass destruction.

Khamenei's message was issued on the occasion of "Qods (Jerusalem) Day", the last Friday of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Cuba condemns campaign against Iraq

HAVANA (R) — Cuba has condemned the hostile campaign by Israel and the United States against Iraq and said it backed Baghdad's efforts to defend Iraqi sovereignty and promote the Arab cause.

"The Foreign Ministry reiterates the solidarity of the people and government of Cuba with the Iraqi people and government in the face of continued threats from imperialist nations," the ministry said in a statement.

The United States and Britain have accused Iraq of trying to smuggle in Western-made weapons systems.

The Cuban statement backed Iraq's "just fight for the Arab cause and its own national sovereignty and independence." It accused Israel and the United States of a campaign of aggression against Baghdad.

But it did not specifically mention Britain, whose relations with Baghdad have been strained following Iraq's execution last month of a British-based journalist of spying charges.

Growing Kurdish insurgency drives villagers to restless Turkish towns

by Elif Kaban
Reuters

CIZRE, Turkey — Kurdish families are fleeing their ancestral mountain villages and heading for the safety of big towns, away from the heart of a growing separatist insurgency in southeast Turkey.

"We had no peace left in the mountains. We were frightened," said Osman Celik, who has brought his two wives and four children to Cizre town, 30 kilometres north of Iraq.

"It was dangerous to go out at night. It was dangerous to pasture animals," he said in a market place where more than 20 homeless families from the mountains are living in tiny rooms.

More than 90 people have been killed in the southeast since the beginning of March in an insurgency by guerrillas seeking a separate state for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds, nearly a fifth of the country's population.

The rugged, barren mountains are ideal terrain for the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) fighters, whose spring offensive is the fiercest of their six-year-old campaign.

Celik said his ancestral village of Andac, on a ridge overlooking the Iraqi border, was now deserted. It once had a thriving population of 350.

"The rebels were coming to our homes at night. With weapons, we were left between two fires," said Abdul Selam Isik, from another village, referring to

the frequent clashes between the guerrillas and government troops.

But Cizre and other mainly Kurdish towns are not immune from the rebellion, which has claimed 2,000 lives since it began.

At least four people were shot dead in Cizre last month in anti-government demonstrations. Officials said protesters set fire to government buildings and burned Turkish flags.

Security forces clamped a 36-hour curfew on the towns on March 20 and more 70 people were arrested. Protests seeking greater rights for Kurds also flared in other southeastern towns and in universities in Istanbul and Ankara.

Regional governor Hayri Kozakcioglu told Reuters the PKK had begun cooperating with smaller Kurdish rebel groups, mainly leftists.

"The events in Cizre are a result of this policy," he said. Economic problems contributed to the town's problems, he added.

Unemployment is above 20 per cent in the region, one of the country's poorest.

"These aren't many jobs around. Many young men from my family have nothing to do," said a 20-year-old waiter in a backstreet coffeehouse.

President Turgut Ozal has promised government help for the southeast. "There will be a more compassionate policy and support for the local people," he announced last week.

But in a warning to the rebels, he added: "We have one condition only — loyalty to the Turkish Republic." Armed helicopters and other new weapons might be sent to fight them, he added.

In Cizre, Kurdish civilians mingle uneasily on the sidewalks with Turkish troops and police commandos.

Tanks, armoured cars and bullet-riddled shop windows are testimony to the violence that struck the town last month.

"We are frightened," a shopkeeper said to a reporter.

Turkey does not recognise its Kurds as a minority and bans the use of Kurdish as an official language.

On a coffeehouse wall is a hand-knit decoration bearing the orange, green and red colours of the flag of Kurdistan, for which PKK claims an area of Turkey about the half the size of Italy.

"They (the security forces) pick people up at night from homes saying they are PKK collaborators," said Zemo, a 28-year-old Kurdish woman.

Her almond-shaped eyes clouded with fear as a soldier crossed the main street.

Celik knows what he wants from the government. "The state must build homes for us. It must provide jobs for us. We have forgotten what meat is like, what vegetables are like," he said.

"I sold my sheep, I sold my goats. I spent all the money I brought with me from my village. We are hungry now," he said.

Libya defends France against media criticism

PARIS (Agencies) — The Libyan embassy Friday accused U.S. and British news media of unjustly attacking France and Libya for their roles in the recent release of three hostages.

Editorial writers and columnists in many Western newspapers have criticised French officials for their warm praise of Libya's leader, Col. Muammar Qadhafi, after the hostages were freed Tuesday by Libyan-backed Palestinian guerrillas.

The Libyan embassy, in a communiqué, accused U.S., British and other Western media of "seeking to distort the humanitarian stance of Libya in the release of hostages."

"We are convinced... that there is a grudge against France because of its policies toward Mediterranean countries and its constructive role in dialogue strengthening cooperation and

peace between states in this region," the communiqué added.

"The independent foreign policy of France doesn't satisfy the American and British media," said the embassy, which praised France "for its policies based on decisions made freely and without submitting to American pressure."

Two stinging U.S. newspaper columns were published Friday in Paris by the International Herald Tribune.

A.M. Rosenthal of the New York Times described Qadhafi as a "terrorist king" and said the French government would never be able to outlive its official praise for him as "noble and humanitarian." Richard Cohen of the Washington Post referred to "the French talent to espouse the highest of aims while engaged in the lowest of deals."

France has denied any transaction between the abductions and says there was no link between the hostages' release and its decision to end a four-year embargo on delivery of three Libyan warplanes sent back to France for repairs.

The hostages — Jacqueline Valente of France, Fernand Hostekins of Belgium, and their daughter, Sophie-Liberte — met briefly with the media Thursday for the first time since arriving in Paris late Tuesday. Hostekins said they would not answer questions because the Belgian government had requested "total discretion" while it negotiated to free four of his relatives still in captivity.

Belgium has confirmed that it has been asked by Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council (FRC) group to free a Palestinian prisoner in exchange for the freedom of the four remaining hostages.

The Palestinian, said Nasser, was jailed in 1980 for killing a Jew during an attack on a Belgian synagogue.

The official Libyan News Agency (JANA) praised France Thursday for building a "bridge" with Arabs, and criticised Western accusations that France had been too friendly to Libya following the release of three hostages.

In a dispatch monitored in Rome, JANA's world affairs editor said that "France is assuming an active role in strengthening the relations and the links between the Arab Nation and the European Community."

The editor criticised Britain and the United States for their comments on the hostage release, saying they "do not want France to have an outstanding role in the region."

The dispatch quoted British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

as telling the East German News Agency (ADN) that France had struck a deal with Libya for the hostage release.

Meanwhile the French foreign minister, criticised for heaping praise on Qadhafi said Thursday France only followed normal practice.

"Unfortunately, it is international practice to thank the governments involved in such cases," Roland Dumas told French senators.

President Francois Mitterrand sent Qadhafi his personal thanks and Dumas himself praised the Libyan leader's role as "noble and humanitarian."

The plaudits shocked leading newspapers in France, Europe and the United States though they were not publicly condemned by Western leaders.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

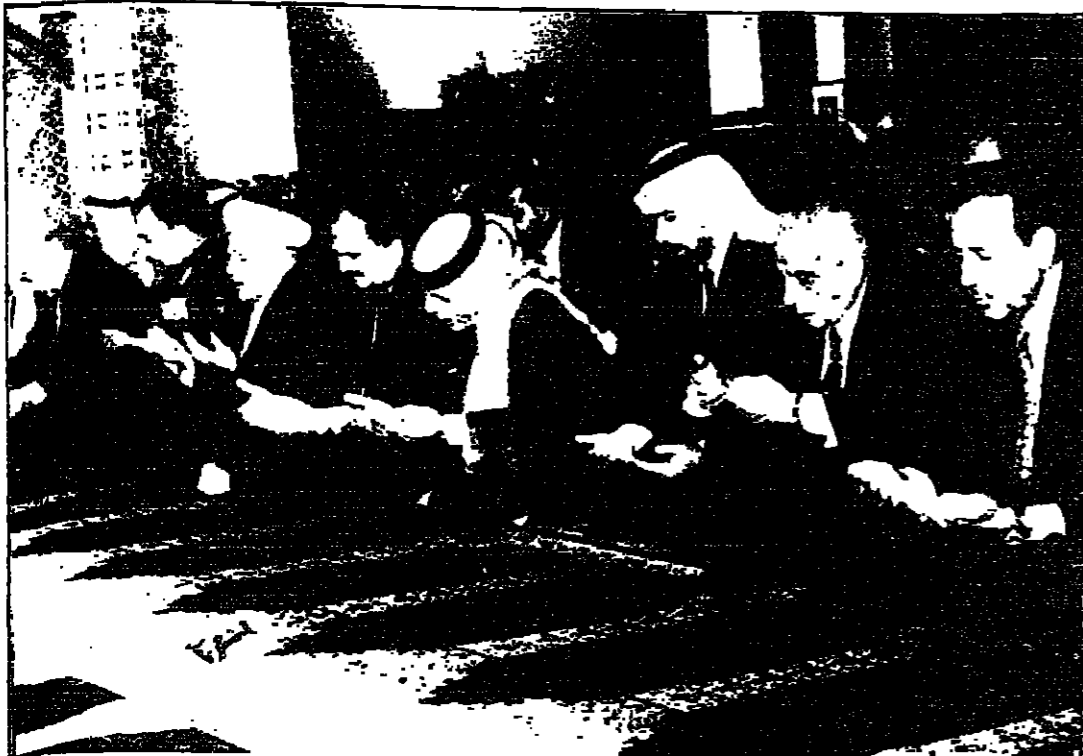
JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary
18:45	Message from Iraq
19:15	A play by Shakespeare
19:45	Local programme
20:00	Programme review
20:30	News in Arabic
20:45	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:45	Consumer's Guide
22:25	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Contest
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
20:45	Surgical Spirits
21:00	Encounter
22:00	News in English
22:25	Feature film: "Death of Englishmen"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:42	Fajr
07:07	Sunrise
11:36	Dhuhr

15:12 'Asr
18:08 Maghreb
19:29 'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedick, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627385	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrace Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The country will be under the effect	

of unstable weather conditions. Therefore clouds increase and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with southerly moderate wind and calm sea.	
Amman	11/21
Aqaba	18/30
Deserts	10/25
Jordan Valley	15/27
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani	898552
Dr. Tayseer Al Saadi	777636
Dr. Joseph Inshih	770580
Dr. Mouna Bashir	615487
Firas pharmacy	661912
Perdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asata pharmacy	637055
Nakroshi pharmacy	625672
Al Salim pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	890300
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680700
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Al-Basma Medical Centre	813813/32
Al-Basma Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Basma Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Al-Basma, Shamsani	664717/4
Shamsani Hospital	669121
University Hospital	843945
Al-Munawwar Hospital	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdell	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdell	664164/6
Al-Basma, Abdell	777101/3
Al-Basma, J. Amman	775111/2
Al-Basma, J. Amman	891611/1
Queen Alia Hospital	622405/0
Agal Hospital	674155
Al-Basma	
Zawra Govt. Hospital	09583323
Zawra National Hospital	09591071
Bin Sina Hospital	09598732
AMMAN:	</



KING ATTENDS PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein Friday joined worshippers at Friday prayer, which was held at Fatha mosque in Shamsi, and listened to Friday sermon which focused on the anniversary of Badr battle, when Muslim soldiers won a victory against enemies of Islam. The sermon was delivered by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Ali Al Faqr. Also attend-

ing the prayers were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mahdian, the Public Security director and senior military and civil officials (Petra photo)

Jordanians denounce Israeli assault on Christian clergymen in Jerusalem

By a Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — The Jordanian community Friday denounced an assault by Israeli forces on Christian clergymen in occupied Jerusalem Thursday and called for a strong united front to counter the occupation authorities' arbitrary measures against the Palestinians living in the occupied holy city, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Amman chapter, called for international protection for the Muslim and Christian communities living under Israeli occupation and urged the U.S. administration to exert efforts to ensure that incidents like those that took place Thursday are not repeated.

The General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem Friday denounced the "brutal Israeli aggression against the Greek Orthodox community in Jerusalem and the personal attack on the Patriarch Theodoros."

In a communiqué carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the congress denounced "the aggression against Christian community" and called for forming a strong front to counter the "brutal Israeli measures and to expose Israel's intentions and hostile plans."

It is not by pure coincidence that a group of American Zionists who has set their hostile objectives to Judaize Jerusalem has carried out this aggression against

Greek Orthodox property in Jerusalem at a time when the U.S. Congress has supported the Israeli expansionist plans in Jerusalem, giving moral support for Zionist groups to go ahead with their plans to Judaize the Arab city, the communiqué said.

It warned of new attacks against the property of the Christian communities, saying that the "Zionists are following the same method they followed when attacking Islamic shrines in Palestine."

This method is based on sharing the roles between the extremist groups and the so-called moderate groups."

The communiqué called for drawing up a comprehensive plan, considering holy places and national rights as an inseparable whole, and for declaring any aggression on any of these shrines or any violation of these rights as an aggression on the whole entity.

Angry crowds in Jerusalem, headed by the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, Friday staged a demonstration in protest against the occupation by Israeli settlers of buildings adjacent to the Church of Holy Sepulchre. Al Nasrara (the Christian) quarter was a scene for a general strike which paralysed movement in the quarter.

Arar: No surprise

Commenting on the event, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar said the

usurpation by the Israeli authorities of Christian property was not a surprise for him "since it has always been the case with Israel which does not respect neither the sanctity nor the holiness of holy places."

Arar denounced the Israeli measures and the attack on the clergymen, who "enjoy love and respect from both our Muslim and Christian people."

Akram Zuaier, chairman of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs, said that the attack on the shrine is another evidence that Israel does not give any weight, when launching its attacks, to Muslims or Christians and does not differentiate between followers of both faiths.

Zuaier added that the attack on the Greek Orthodox patriarch harms the feelings of both Muslims and Christians. He called for Muslim-Christian solidarity to counter this Zionist aggression against holy places.

Monsignor Raouf Najjar, president of Bethlehem University, called on the free world to contribute to establishing peace and denounced the aggression against the Christian property in Jerusalem and described it as an inhuman act.

Pledge of solidarity

Heads of Christian communities in Jordan have issued a statement condemning Israel's illegal actions in Jerusalem and Jewish settlers' attempts to occupy premises in the Christian quarter.

The statement, issued by Bishop Elia Khouri on behalf of all Christian denominations, said that the Christians of Jordan "stand behind the Greek Orthodox patriarch and the rest of the clergy in the Holy City in abhorring all settlers' attempts to occupy Arab areas."

The statement appealed to all peace-loving nations and world organisations to denounce the Israeli attempts and the use of force against the clergy as a brutal practice committed against the heads of the Christian people of the Holy City.

The statement paid tribute to the clergymen and citizens of Jerusalem for confronting the settlers and the Israeli force and foiling their attempt.

The statement condemned the Israeli attempts as inhuman, immoral and illegal and urged the Islamic, Christian and Arab countries alike to express their condemnation of Israel's atrocities in the Holy City.

ADC condemnation

In a statement issued in Amman, the ADC said: The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee vehemently condemns the brutal assault against and forced displacement of Christian clergymen in Arab Jerusalem April 12 and views the action as part of the systematic pattern of hostile Israeli moves against all non-Jewish faiths in the Holy City.

"The ADC sees the Israeli action as a direct consequence of the encouragement inherent in Resolution 106 adopted by the U.S. Senate on March 22, recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and upholding Israel's claim to both West Jerusalem and East Jerusalem," it said. The ADC, which rejects the resolution as a flagrant violation of long-standing official American policy on the status of Jerusalem and as another obstacle to peace efforts in the Middle East, calls upon the American Senate to rescind its politically-motivated resolution, which openly discriminates against Muslims, Christians and Arabs.

"The ADC also sees the Israeli violence as further encouraged by the ongoing American-led efforts at the United Nations to rescind the General Assembly resolution which equates Zionism with racism. Does anyone need any evidence that Zionism is racism when seen in light of the consistent Israeli policy of oppressing the religious rights of Muslims and Christians living in Jerusalem, the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and of systematically violating the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places there?"

"The ADC further calls for immediate international protection for Christian as well as Muslim holy places in Arab Jerusalem and elsewhere in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such international protection be provided under the aegis of the United Nations."

West Bank resident beaten up

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A thirty-seven-year-old Palestinian woman, currently hospitalised at Palestine Hospital in Amman after being beaten severely by the Israeli soldiers who denied her entry to the West Bank, Friday called on international organisations: the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Human Rights and Fact Finding Committees to intervene for finding a solution to her problem with the Israeli authorities.

Hanan Jabr Khamis Al Badawi, from Arroub camp, in Hebron area was denied entry to the West Bank, although she holds a visit permit, issued by the Israeli authorities.

Hanan, a mother of two children, and a sister of two youths who are serving life term jail in the Israeli prisons, came to visit her brother in Amman who arrived here for treatment for a wound he sustained while taking part in the uprising in the occupied territories.

Trying to go back to the West Bank Sunday, Hanan

was denied entry on that day, so she tried again Thursday when she was not only denied entry, but was severely beaten by the Israeli soldiers, who told her that they would not allow her to go back.

Almost half-fainted Hanan was carried by car to Amman again.

Hanan, now does know what to do in order to go back to the West Bank to join her family. She said she would expose the Israelis and said there are no international laws that prevent someone from returning to his homeland.

Public rally urges move to counter Israel actions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan Friday organised a public rally under the theme "Public Mobilisation in Confronting Jewish emigration and Zionist threat." Speakers at the rally were Deputy Youssef Al Aqam, Jordan Bar Association President Walid Abdul Hadi, Dr. Ahmad Nofal of the University of Jordan and Ibrahim Ghosheh.

Athem emphasised the importance of national unity in confronting conspiracies against the Arab Nation. "The peoples of Palestine and Jordan are one people and the land of Palestine is an Islamic and Arab land and is the place where the Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven," Athem said.

"We are facing conspiracies woven for us by the superpowers. Balfour declaration, the U.S. support for Israel and the immigration of Soviet Jews to the land of Palestine are weapons presented to the Jews on the land of Palestine," he added.

Athem praised the Palestinian uprising and called for supporting it "since it is an important means of replying, at the Arab and Islamic levels, to Jewish immigration."

Abdul Hadi reviewed the history of Jewish immigration to Palestine and said Israel's objective behind the flow of Jews from Eastern Europe was to undermine Arab relations with these countries.

Abdul Hadi called for extending all kinds of support for the intifada and for preserving Palestinian national unity inside the occupied lands. In reference to the U.S. Senate's resolution recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, he said the "Arab identity of Palestine or Jerusalem is not decided by U.S. institutions or others; it is a fact which is proven right by the Palestinians and the Arabs."

Ghosheh stressed that "the Arab-Israeli struggle is a struggle of civilisations and ideologies." He called for jihad (Islamic holy war) against Israel for the liberation of Palestine. Ghosheh warned of Israeli plans to absorb 100,000 immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Dr. Nofal called for making the war with Israel a religious war, "so that we can attract all the Islamic and the friendly states to stand on our side."

Housing Bank netted 3.42 million last year

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Bank last year realised JD 3.42 million in net profits from its operations through 99 branches around the Kingdom, and intends to distribute dividends at the rate of 14 per cent to the shareholders, according to an announcement Friday.

The announcement followed a general assembly meeting held at the Amman Plaza hotel during which the bank's general budget and the final account statement were ratified.

"The shareholders will receive 14 per cent in dividends, and the rest of the profits will be added to the bank's reserves which now stand at JD 17.6 million," the announcement said.

The meeting was addressed by the chairman of the Housing Bank's board of directors Zuhair Khouri who stated that the bank will pursue its policy of providing funds to finance housing projects to limited income groups and credit facilities to private housing schemes carried out by individuals and organisations or municipalities on easy terms.

"In the midst of 1989 the Housing Bank reduced the rate of interest and commissions on loans for individuals including beneficiaries of urban development schemes," Khouri said.

"By the end of 1989, the Housing Bank's credit facilities had reached JD 334 million and the total number of housing units built in the Kingdom through loans from the bank stood at 82,000 of 10.9 million square metres in area," Khouri added. "By the end of 1989 a total of 160,000 Jordanian citizens had won lottery arranged by the Housing Bank on their account numbers, altogether receiving JD 3.6 million in bonus," Khouri pointed out.

He said that the end of the 1989 accounts revealed that the Housing Bank was the major financial institution operating in the country in terms of deposits holdings which accounted for 53 per cent of the total savings deposited with other banks put together.

Last year, Khouri added, the Housing Bank opened new branches in Irbid, Karak, and Madaba regions raising the total number to 99 and accounting for 39 per cent of the total number of banks and bank branches in the Kingdom.

3,000 sheep slaughtered

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 3,000 heads of locally purchased sheep were slaughtered at the Amman slaughterhouse at Ain Ghazal between Thursday evening and Friday afternoon for distribution at meat centres in the capital Saturday, according to a slaughterhouse spokesman.

He told the Jordan Times the meat was prepared at the request of the Ministry of Supply which had refused to receive a consignment of 30,000 heads of Australian live sheep because the importer had violated the terms of an agreement signed with the ministry.

"The importer, the Jordanian meat trading company, is committed to supply 30,000 heads of sheep according to specifications stated in the agreement and should be failed to do that the ministry was bound to make arrangements for the purchase of sheep from other sources and through other merchants, with the original importer footing the bill," the spokesman said.

Earlier, the Ministry of Supply announced that it refused to take delivery of the live Australian sheep because the consignment did not conform to the set specifications.

"Live sheep should be no more than one year old and weigh between eight and 16 kilograms but it was found that the shipment which arrived aboard a cargo vessel at Aqaba carried sheep of 35 to 55 kilograms and two to four years old," the ministry said in a statement Thursday.

The local press reports said that a total of 62,000 heads of sheep arrived on board the vessel, 25 per cent of which proved to be sick with scabby mouth disease.

"The ministry had set up a special committee from the ministries of agriculture and supply and the ports corporation to supervise the tests on the imported sheep and samples; the 100 sheep subjected to the laboratory test revealed satisfactory results," the reports said.

"Only 10,000 heads of live sheep were destined for Jordan while the rest were bound for Saudi Arabia which had already rejected the shipment because of the skin disease," the report added.

According to the ministry's statement, special precautionary arrangements have been taken to prevent any of the imported Australian sheep from entering the country and instead it was making arrangements for purchasing local sheep through Jordanian merchants to meet the needs of the Jordanian markets.

The press report said the Jordanian company entrusted with importing the meat had signed a \$1.38 million deal for the transaction and the sheep arrived at Aqaba Tuesday.

The report quoted Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat as saying the ministry will soon set up a new veterinary centre, at the port of Aqaba.

The National Charter is a positive step towards democracy — Arar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament has described the creation of a National Charter to organise political activity in the Kingdom as a clear indicator of the positive steps that would follow to enhance the march of democracy in the country and to pave the way for the creation of political parties.

Suleiman Arar told a press conference in Amman that the proposed charter was bound to define the main principles and essential elements of democracy and would back the articles and the provisions of the Jordanian constitution.

"The inclusion of 16 Lower House members and 11 senators in the Royal Commission to work out the National Charter is cause for deep satisfaction, but these parliamentarians have been selected as prominent figures representing various groupings in Jordan's society," Arar said at the press conference.

Called to report on Jordan's participation in the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting held recently in Cyprus.

Arar said the pluralistic nature of the Royal Commission gives citizens hope that the National Charter would be of such a formula that would be most acceptable to the Jordanian people at large.

Referring to Parliament's stand vis-a-vis a recent visit to Amman by a U.S. senate team, Arar said that a meeting between Jordanian and U.S. senators would have been useful had there been time for such meeting in that the American visitors would take into consideration the Arab points of view concerning the city of Jerusalem.

He said that Parliament has condemned the U.S. senate's approval of Israel's annexation of the Arab city of Jerusalem as a hostile stand directed against the Arab Nation.

"The Jordanian parliamentary delegation to the IPU meeting in Cyprus has won support from various delegations for the Arab views concerning Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories under Israeli rule," Arar said.

He said that the Arab delegation to the conference succeeded

in enlisting the world parliament's condemnation of Israel's continued occupation of Arab land.

"Parliamentarians from various nations have voiced their deep concern over the dangerous situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's plans to settle Jews on Arab land in general and Jerusalem in particular, since this contradicted all international principles and United Nations resolutions as well as the universal declaration of human rights," Arar said.

"The IPU conference called for a halt of Jewish settlements in Arab lands and underlined the importance of implementing U.N. resolutions. The IPU earlier called for an international Middle East peace conference to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict and to find a lasting solution for the Palestinian problem," Arar added.

Furthermore, he said, the conference called for the Mediterranean Sea to be considered a zone for peace and security, free of all international conflicts and urged



Suleiman Arar

all major powers to withdraw their fleets from the Mediterranean Sea.

"Tension in that sea, the conference said, would not end without a lasting and just solution to the Middle East problem and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland," Arar added.

Arar announced that Jordan will take part in an Arab Parliamentary Union extraordinary meeting to be held in Baghdad, April 18 to discuss external threats directed against the Arab Nation.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisian exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Tunisian trade exhibition was opened Thursday at the Amman Development Corporation building near the First Circle of Jabal Amman. The exhibition which will remain open until April 21 displays an assortment of Tunisian food supplies, clothing, home and electrical appliances, cosmetics and various other products.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of paintings by Khalil Al Kofahi at the Yarmouk University.
- * Comprehensive book exhibition at Ajloun girls college.
- * Exhibition of Jordanian-Palestinian heritage displaying national costumes, oil paintings and photos depicting the suffering of Palestinians under Israeli occupation at Al Quds Community College.

THEATRE

Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

Anti-drug society will be constituted

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of Arab and Jordanian intellectuals have requested the government to set up a society for the protection from the dangers of drugs and narcotics, and the Prime Ministry has referred the request to the concerned government departments for action, according to an announcement here Friday.

Dr. Tareq Al Haliq, member of the society's constituent assembly, said that the group

plans to carry out activities designed to stem the use of drugs and narcotics and to contribute to plans for providing protection to society from drugs in cooperation with public and private organisations operating in Jordan.

He said that the society would seek legislation to back their activities and proper actions to protect the society from dangers resulting from drugs.

ATTRACTIVE POSITION

A leading international firm in the Middle East has a vacancy for a candidate with following qualifications:

- MBA graduate preferably from an American University.
- Five years experience in a management position in a financial institution (Insurance/Banking).
- Extensive exposure in credit analysis and risk assessment.
- Directly involved in decision making.
- Strong analytical skills and good communication abilities.
- Career oriented and objective driven.

Candidates are requested to send their CVs at following address:

General Manager
P.O. Box 121
Amman, Jordan.

Applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Shamir voices confidence

(Continued from page 1)

everything is lost," Peres told Israel Radio.

Israeli media reported there were grumblings in Labour that Peres should be replaced by the party's number two, Yitzhak Rabin, who gained popularity among voters as a hardline defence minister.

Rabin was the last holdout in Labour for continuing the party's coalition with Likud that collapsed March 15. Labour engineered the fall after Likud refused to accept U.S. Middle East peace proposals.

Shamir, meanwhile, said in a newspaper interview that he was convinced Peres would not be able to form a coalition by the time his mandate expires April 26.

"I was certain that Peres will not succeed to form a government, what happened this week did not change my opinion," said

Shamir, who serves as caretaker prime minister.

"I think I have a chance to form a government when I receive the mandate," Shamir said. Peres' was given three weeks to form a new government by President Chaim Herzog March 20. His time was extended by two weeks Wednesday after defectors from Agudat Israel robbed him of a majority.

Qasem

(Continued from page 1)

consultations among the leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and two weeks before a scheduled visit to the Syrian capital by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Egyptian leader will be paying his first visit to Syria after Cairo and Damascus resumed diplomatic relations two months ago following a 10-year hiatus.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الجordanية المستقلة التي تأسست في عام 1975

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VIEW FROM AMMAN

Nation in grave danger, salvation is bitter

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

IN THE previous article, I indicated that the time might be ripe for an historical dismemberment of the Fertile Crescent and its atomisation and balkanisation by a combination of an Israeli-Iranian power alliance. An alliance entered into in the year 538 B.C. when Cyrus the Great of Persia sponsored the Jews and allied himself with them. An alliance that was revived twelve hundred years later when the Persians, in the seventh century A.D. and just before the advent of Islam, occupied the area with the help of twenty thousands Jewish fighters. If Iran-gate demonstrated anything, it is that Iran, and regardless of who rules it, is willing to cooperate, even allies itself with Israel.

Both nations, Iran and Israel have enormous resources to draw upon. Most importantly, they have an aggressive though dynamic ideology, leadership and organisation. Furthermore, and perhaps above all else, they have the will: the combined will to use their power and energy to achieve their ends. Both are viewed, and view themselves as strategic Western allies and both think they have scores to settle with the Arabs.

By contrast, we stand alone, our position weakening, rather than strengthening, with the passage of time. And now, with the abandonment of the Soviet Union of its previous posture as a superpower, especially in the region, our position is further exposed. The West in general, and the United States in particular, seem to become further and further estranged from us and more

and more captive of the Zionist power manipulation of its local politics.

While this is not to be a complete catalogue of our weaknesses or strengths — and we have both — mention of some should be made if for nothing but contrast. We lack not only the unified, combined leadership but the will as well. We do not seem to be able to agree on either ideology or the broad outlines and goals of our

lives and societies. We have neither discipline nor organisation, and the only thing we seem to agree upon is further disagreement. We meet, we pass resolutions, elaborate plans and then we proceed to ignore them as soon as the ink dries. Not only have other people despaired of us or our seriousness, but our people despair of themselves too. How often do we hear it being said disparagingly by us about

ourselves "Aren't we Arabs?" As if that is something nefarious, inferior.

We need to be serious about ourselves and our problems. We cannot go on like this forever especially in view of the imminent danger from those around us. How can we be serious as a people unless our leaders become more serious in tackling our problems and addressing the host of issues and challenges facing

us? It is thus that the greatest challenge remains to be how to overcome our own maladies. We need leaders who are committed: committed to seriously tackling our problems and not merely appearing to be doing so in the hope that time will bring something else. Thus far, the something else that follows what once was, has always been worse.

Is it not true though sad, very sad, to say that the condi-

tion of the Arabs, individually and collectively was better off in 1948 than it is now in 1990? What happened to us in the meanwhile and how and why have we failed? Why have we not been able to produce the kind of response, the leadership equal to the task? These are not luxurious questions but an attempt at diagnosing our condition in the hope of finding a remedy.

The first step is to rebuild our confidence in ourselves, in our nation, our culture and not in the manner of distracting the attention elsewhere as we have been used to, but to truly tackle the issues of our lives. We must learn that we cannot get mercy in this merciless world and that right cannot be protected while men are on their knees. We must teach our children how to solve problems, how to think not merely to memorise formulae. The world of the twenty and the twenty-first century is not of our making and we have to teach our children their ways. That, after a committed leadership is the second factor that may lead to our salvation. With leadership and proper education comes not only the identification of problems and the assessment of the situations but solutions and alternative future scenarios. That is organisation. Once organisation protected by institutions and laws, not the whims of inspired leaders, is established, discipline and order will enter our lives and the light at the end of the tunnel will appear.

That is the only way out: the only way to prevent the fate that those around us are preparing for us.



Chapter of Jerusalem

SENATOR Robert Dole's statement on Jerusalem in Israel Friday is very significant. First, its timing, which came right after his meeting with Yitzhak Shamir, assumes great importance, since the senator had just finished talking to the Israeli prime minister telling him of his new position on the issue. Second, Dole's statement bespeaks a change of heart on the part of the Republican leader and presumably also his delegation on the Jerusalem debate that is called Resolution 106 by the U.S. Senate.

Where and how the change of heart happened is still unclear yet. What we do know for sure though that it started shaping up as the U.S. senators left the Royal Palace Wednesday evening after their dinner and talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The U.S. senators had also heard from the other Arab leaders whom they met with during their whirlwind tour in the area, and after the lawmakers had realised the folly of their House's action in adopting Resolution 106.

The change of heart might have been a tactical move by Senator Dole, he being the high-strung and experienced politician that he is, to put pressure on Shamir to be more flexible in his position vis-a-vis the peace process.

In any case the reversal of position by Dole and company, significant as it is, should not be viewed as a salvation by the Arabs, or a point at which all our differences with the U.S. Congress have vanished. Let us first make sure that when he goes back to Washington, the U.S. senators will actually undertake to translate their words into action. Then let us see whether Dole can succeed in reversing the infamous resolution in the Senate or stop it from reaching the floor of the House of Representatives. Last, but not least, let us watch out for those Middle East-naïve politicians in the U.S. Congress, and make sure that they do not unnecessarily follow the lead of the Israeli lobby each time it wants to put its foot in its mouth or that of the U.S. congressman.

Senator Dole's new position on Jerusalem, and his insistence on his proposal to deprive Israel of five per cent of its financial and economic allocations from the U.S. treasury, are unmistakable positive indications that all hope is not lost in the viability of U.S. brokerage in the area. That is not to say that the development is a final victory for Arab, especially Jordanian, diplomacy and popular action. Nor is it an irreversible loss for the Israelis. What it means — the U.S. episode and counter episode — is that the Arabs are indeed vulnerable but that they can matter and be effective when they act. And it also means that the Israelis and their proteges in Washington will not easily give up playing their dirty game with the Americans.

What we have just witnessed in the Middle East is another lesson in history in the chapter of Jerusalem.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

The occupation of a Greek Orthodox church building in Arab Jerusalem Thursday occurred while a U.S. Congress team was visiting the holy city, and it came in the wake of His Majesty King Hussein's clear warning that peace and sanctity of the holy places are being tampered with by the Zionist enemy, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in its editorial Friday. The paper said the usurpation of a religious building belonging to the Arab Christian community in Arab Jerusalem for the settlement of Jewish immigrants and settlers, can be part of the ongoing process of consolidating Israel's hold on the Arab part of the city, which is bound to lead to further acts of violence and further tension. The paper said that King Hussein drew the congressmen's attention to the fact that using the holy city as a play in the political gambit was a dangerous development and a serious tampering with peace because the holy city symbolises peace among nations. The settlement of Jews in Arab Jerusalem was preceded by a U.S. Senate support for Israel's annexation of the holy city, which means that the U.S. Senate shoulders responsibility for the bloody events and the tension, and all that result from such dangerous decision, the paper pointed out. King Hussein, said the paper, has warned the U.S. Senate and the U.S. administration against such actions, and against Jerusalem being used as a means for escalating tension in the region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily newspaper expresses deep dissatisfaction with the Soviet Union's submission to the will of world Zionism and the United States over the question of Jewish emigration, and says that to achieve perestroika, Moscow had to pay a heavy price. Gorbachev has accepted the terms and the conditions of the United States and its allies which demanded that Moscow gives human rights to the Jews under its rule, says Reader Abdel Elaq. The writer said all of a sudden, the Soviet Jews who had been under suspicion in their original country have now turned into a tool for killing Arabs and Palestinians since they are forced to go to Palestine and settle there under orders from world Zionism. Before the perestroika, Soviet Jews were allowed to emigrate; and most of them went to Europe, Canada and the United States, but now the situation is totally different; since as part of the package deal with Moscow, all the Jews are forced to go to Palestine and settle on Arab territory, the writer notes. Both the perestroika of President Gorbachev and the United States are pushing the Soviet Jews to the battlefield, to fuel the Arab-Israeli conflict and to quench the thirst of the world Zionist leaders, the writer adds. The writer also points out that All Arab countries' peaceful approach, and their endeavours to win the favour of major nations of the world are futile because no one is listening to the Arabs; and indeed the big nations' attitude seems to say: go to hell... or drink sea water... which is what the Arabs are doing right now.

Secret files on Swiss citizens trigger uproar

By Hanns Neunerbourg
The Associated Press

BERN, Switzerland — The retired managing editor of a liberal Swiss newspaper was not pleased to receive word that his political reputation is untarnished. Paul C. Schaffroth is among the half-million Swiss and foreign nationals who were kept under surveillance by Swiss police. He demanded his official file and got a clean bill of political health. The existence of the files was a secret until last November, when the surveillance practice was disclosed by a Swiss parliamentary commission.

"These methods are unworthy of our democracy," Schaffroth, 69, said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I feel angry and concerned."

Justice Minister Arnold Koller, currently the Swiss president, was another prominent figure listed in the files.

Koller called the surveillance methods "unacceptable and amateurish" but argued that the practice originated in the cold war and was similar to those used in other countries.

Word of the files triggered an uproar in this country of 6.5 million, which takes pride in being an island of tranquility in a troubled world.

What Koller concedes is "deep crisis of confidence" now threatens to overshadow next year's events marking the 700th anniversary of Switzerland, one of the world's oldest democracies.

"Snooping state" has become a widely used reference in the Swiss press.

Artists and writers have warned they may refuse to help preparations for next year's jubilee. There have also been calls for a boycott of a national census planned next December. "What made us deserve a state which is so unsure of itself that its concern for security becomes paranoia?" Adolf Muschg, a prominent Swiss novelist, asked at a protest rally in Bern last month.

More than 300,000 people so far have asked the federal prosecutor's office for copies of their file cards, if they exist. Answering the letters will take at least until the end of this year.

The government is under pressure to release the full dossiers on which the file cards are based, and officials warn that will take many more months.

Schaffroth, formerly of Der Bund newspaper in Bern, is

among less than 30,000 people who have received an answer to date.

More than two decades of state surveillance established, among other things, that he was once invited by the Chinese embassy to watch a movie on panda bears.

Schaffroth's file also notes that he once took part in a press trip to China, and that as a city councillor in charge of police he once received a letter on the visit of a Soviet delegation.

Published excerpts of other files suggest surveillance focused on contacts with left-wing circles and travels to Communist countries.

Further disclosures of secret files both in the justice and defence ministries have added heat to the debate. They include "suspects" who were to be interned or restricted in movement in case of war or tensions.

Particularly startling was the discovery in the justice ministry of data on thousands of foreign children who vacationed in Switzerland in the early postwar years under a Red Cross charity programme.

Hubert Bucher, secretary general of the Swiss Red Cross, said the records were turned over to the government because of lack of space. He denied official suggestions that the Red Cross had offered them for possible use by Swiss counterintelligence.

"A storm of mistrust is sweeping the country," Defence Minister Kaspar Villiger told a congress of his conservative radical Democratic Party last month. An editorial in the influential conservative newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung spoke of a "brutal disillusionment" of citizens.

The Independent Basler Zeitung said the files reflect "the reverse side of our national character: this proverbial tidiness, this efficiency, this zeal once unleashed... can turn into unscrupulous fulfilment of duty..."

The scandal has been the prime topic in letters to the nation's newspapers since January. Recently there has been a backlash, with many defending surveillance — for example as a means of crime control.

Others have taken a mocking view. One woman suggested that, to ease the government's burden, all citizens should keep a file on themselves and regularly send it to authorities. Another suggested that all dossiers be burned in a huge bonfire marking the 1991 anniversary.

Open border brings Austrians, Czech together

By Thalia Griffiths
Reuters

GMUEND, Austria — For 40 years, the Austrian and Czechoslovak officers guarding the "Iron curtain" border at this rural town resolutely faced in opposite directions.

The new Prague government began dismantling border fortifications last December as part of sweeping democratic reforms, and the Czechoslovaks now come over to give their Austrian colleagues a hand with translating for travellers.

"This is how 'I've always imagined my border post should be,'" head officer Werner Minhold said. He proudly showed a coiled length of the old barbed wire frontier barrier, a present from his colleagues from Ceske Velenice, on the Czechoslovak side.

Under Czechoslovakia's previous Communist government, the people of Ceske Velenice

needed special permits to live in the border region and were constantly under police observation.

"It wasn't so bad in the interior but we lived with it every day," said Mayor Jan Hofbauer.

Gmuend developed during the Habsburg era as an industrial centre at the halfway point on the railway between Vienna and Prague.

Under the 1919 treaty of St. Germain, Czechoslovakia was given the area round the main station and the junction where the lines to Ceske Budejovice and Prague divide.

After World War II, Czechoslovakia expelled some three million ethnic Germans from its Sudetenland border regions, including Ceske Velenice. Among them was Gmuend's Mayor Alfred Drach, then aged nine, who says the older generation still harbours some bitterness.

The Sudeten Germans, many of whom settled in Austria, were forced to leave land they

had inhabited for centuries with only their personal belongings.

"As the mayor of this town I must welcome what was happened but I can never be so euphoric myself. It will take another 30 or 40 years for the scars to heal," Drach said.

But many people on both sides of the border are eager to renew old ties. Seven Czech courses in Gmuend's evening school are fully booked. The German spoken in Ceske Velenice has been learned from years of watching Austrian television news.

"My parents spoke two languages and for them Ceske Budejovice was the nearest big town," said Drach. "My generation was the first that never looked across the border."

But the open border has also brought its problems. "We've seen shoplifting and also organised crime," Drach said. "And unfortunately our people don't always behave well, either."

"In Ceske Velenice a glass of

beer costs one twentieth of what it does here and people are going over, having a few too many and getting into trouble."

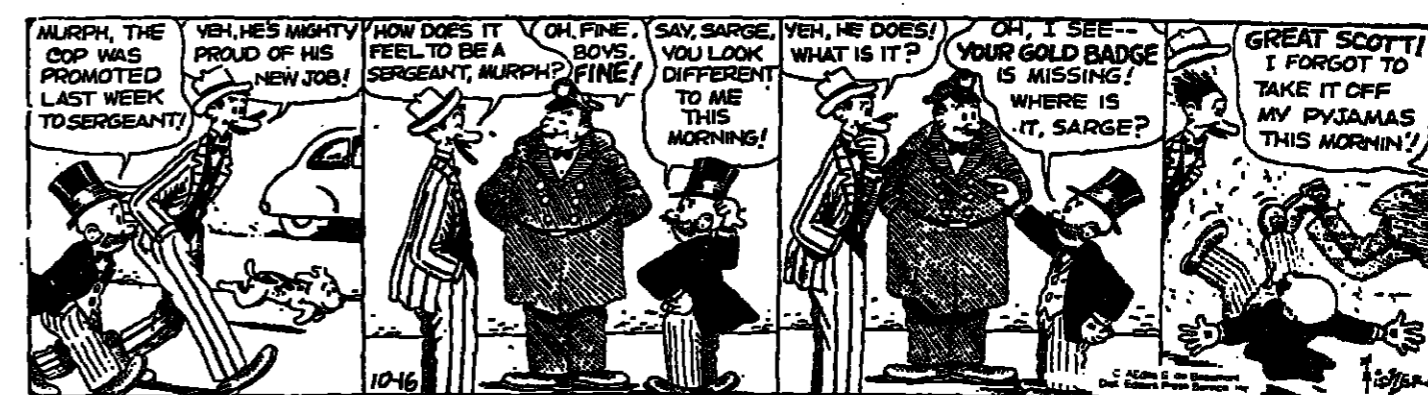
The Czechoslovak authorities have had to ban food exports and make petrol available to foreigners only for coupons to prevent Austrians worsening existing shortages by loading their cars with cheap, subsidised goods.

The Ceske Velenice hairdresser is still doing brisk business, offering a cut for just 15 crowns (90 cents).

The open border has so far brought crowds to Gmuend but not many shoppers. "Traders said their profits were actually down in December because it was so crowded that the locals went elsewhere to shop," Drach said.

But the owner of the electrical shop in the main street is euphoric. "For us it's great. Before it was dead here. The Czechs buy mostly radio cassette players but also deep fryers, televisions, videos and microwaves."

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Fake medicines kill hundreds in Nigeria

By Michelle Faul
The Associated Press

LAGOS — Many expertly packaged fakes are found in Nigeria's marketplaces some are deadly — hundreds of people die each year after taking counterfeit medicines.

Street vendors tap insistently on windows of cars stalled in Lagos' traffic jams to hawk the counterfeit drugs. Many licensed and unlicensed drug stores stock the fakes.

"It's impossible to say how many people have been killed by adulterated medication. But in just one week last year, 10 of my patients died in Lagos alone," said Dr. John Abimbola Kuti, a British-trained endocrinologist who is president of the Diabetic Association of Nigeria.

"The morbidity rate is very, very serious," said Dr. S.H. Brew-Graves of Ghana, the World Health Organisation's Nigeria representative. He confirmed that hundreds of Nigerians are killed by phony drugs each year.

The U.N. agency estimates 40 to 50 per cent of drugs available in Nigeria are fake or substandard, Brew-Graves said.

Inefficiency and corruption endemic in this West African nation prevent authorities from halting unauthorised local production.

Efforts by pharmaceutical companies and the military government only have slowed down supply lines from Taiwan, Korea, Singapore.

Most dangerous are those drugs masquerading as insulin, anti-malaria, medicine and antibiotics. Tropical diseases are common among the 100 million people in Nigeria Africa's most populous nation.

Professor Oikoye Ransome-Kuti, Nigeria's health minister, said babies suffering from malaria are particularly endangered. "The disease puts them at terrible risk. If they do not get the correct medication in exact dosages, they die."

Abimbola Kuti, describing ways of adulterating insulin, said: "These killer merchants do everything from diluting the vials with water, to pasting fake labels on insulin that has expired as long as 10 years ago, or simply filling vials with anything but insulin."

He said an education campaign by the Health Ministry and health organisations has made Nigerians aware of the danger. But often, he said, people buy fakes in an attempt to save money.

Nigerians joke about being "saped" under a structural adjustment programme that has slashed the value of the naira currency and multiplied costs of imports, including genuine drugs.

"One of my patients earns 280 naira (\$35) a month. He should

spend 150 naira (\$19) a month on insulin. So he buys fake insulin which costs 15-20 naira (\$2 to \$2.50) a vial instead of 45 naira (\$5.70)."

Abimbola Kuti said his association uses privately raised funds to give insulin to poor diabetics.

"But we hardly scratch the surface. I feel like each person I turn away, I am sending to their death."

Hucksters also are selling diabetes counterfeits of tablets to test the sugar level in urine. Abimbola Kuti said many of the fakes resemble diabetan, a brand of Pfizer Products Ltd., a subsidiary of the New York-based company.

Pfizer marketing manager Sam J. Oluabunwa said the company has spent more than \$50,000 last year to protect its products, but said 20 to 25 per cent of the supposed diabetan tablets available in Nigeria were substandard or fake.

"But it has declined since pharmaceutical companies took preventive measures and the government introduced stiff fines and jail sentences," he added.

The government last year outlawed counterfeiting medicines, introducing penalties of a fine up to 1,000 naira (\$126.58) and/or imprisonment for up to one year.

Abimbola Kuti is campaigning for tougher punishment. "These people are killers. They deserve the maximum penalty — life imprisonment," he said.

Pfizer has imported machines to make tamper-proof packaging. It also employed detectives to hunt down culprits, Oluabunwa said.

"Many people have been arrested, tried, and jailed or fined, but only the middle-men," he said. "We have never been able to trap the manufacturers."

Oluabunwa accused the government of responding too slowly.

"When our detectives tracked down distributors initially, the police refused to prosecute. They said it was a civil case."

"The government only took action when some very important Nigerian dignitaries died from taking fake medications."

He said Nigerians were flying to Far Eastern countries such as Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore to buy fake drugs.

Ransome-Kuti said that avenue has not been blocked. "I believe port officials and customs officers who are supposed to test drugs collude with the importers," the minister said.

One of the government's more effective weapons is raids on drug stores, which began this year.

At least two Lagos stores were shut down for selling fake and substandard medication the first week in April.

Mother Teresa brought hope and dignity to the unwanted

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa, whose resignation from her charitable order was announced Wednesday, brought hope and dignity to millions of poor, unwanted people with a simple message: "The poor must know that we love them."

To followers who regard her as a living saint, the tiny nun says with disarming simplicity that she is only doing God's work.

The work that Mother Teresa began alone 40 years ago in the slums of Calcutta, India's poorest and most populous city, grew to touch the hearts of people of all religions in as many as 80 countries.

The gentle but energetic missionary who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 said: "It gives me great joy and fulfillment to love and care for the poor and neglected. The poor do not need our sympathy and pity. They need our love and compassion."

The Vatican said Wednesday that Mother Teresa, fitted with a heart pacemaker last December,

had resigned for health reasons as superior of her Missionaries of Charity order which runs more than 400 homes around the world for the needy.

Mother Teresa believes that apart from poverty and hunger, the world's major problems are loneliness and neglect.

"Loneliness is also a kind of hunger," she once said, "hunger for warmth and affection. And this hunger is much more difficult to quench than the hunger for a piece of bread."

She often recalls a painful incident in London when she met a destitute man sitting on the pavement.

"I took his hand. It was so cold. When I asked him why, he replied: 'If you only knew how long it is since I felt human warmth'. That was one of the most agonising moments of my life."

Her Missionaries of Charity, the Roman Catholic religious order she founded in 1949, runs more than 400 homes for unwanted children and the destitute

in India and abroad.

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bejaxhiu to Albanian parents at Skopje, Yugoslavia, on Aug. 27, 1910.

She attended a government school and was already deeply religious by the time she was 12. At the age of 18 she became a Loretto nun, hoping to work at the order's Calcutta mission.

She was sent to Loretto Abbey in Dublin and from there to India to begin her novitiate and teach geography at a convent school in Calcutta.

She said her divine call to work among the poor came in September 1946. "The message was quite clear," she told one interviewer. "I was to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them. It was an order. I knew where I belonged."

The Vatican and the mother superior in Dublin approved and after intensive training as a nurse with American missionaries she opened her first Calcutta slum school in December 1949. She took the name of Teresa.



after France's Saint Therese of the Child Jesus.

Mother Teresa set up her first home for the dying in a Hindu rest house in Calcutta after she saw a penniless woman turned away by a city hospital.

Named "Nirmal Hriday" (Tender Heart), it was the first of a chain of 150 homes for dying destitutes, admitting nearly 18,000 a year.

When told she had won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she said characteristically: "I am unworthy."

The message of Easter this year

The Rev. Musa Adeli

ON SUNDAY, April 15, falls the most significant day of the Christian calendar. On this day millions of people around the world will celebrate the joyous anniversary of the resurrection of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who sacrificed himself to show his love for man.

In recent years the importance of this message of love and peace has taken on a new meaning as revolution from the Philippines to Eastern Europe have resulted from the suppression of human rights and the lack of this very love between men for which Christ died. So as we rejoice with those who have rediscovered their freedom we must look closer to home to see whether or not the seeds of discontent are present.

These very human rights for which many have died include, amongst others, the fundamental right of all men to work, sleep freely. A factor often overlooked during the recent troubles in Romania was the role played by the desire for religious freedom. The bloody massacre of human life which led to the revolt in Romania resulted when government troops were ordered to halt protests over the removal of Pastor Lukes from his parish.

For human rights to exist firmly it is of utmost importance that this vital human right to worship freely be protected. That means that all men whether Christian, Muslim or Jew, should stand firmly together to safeguard each other's freedom. Therefore on this Sunday, the Christian Easter, let the message of Christ, that of peace and love, be shared by all men in mutual toleration and understanding.

Religious services in all Christian churches during the holy week are at 5 p.m. onwards (in Arabic). In English they run as follows at De La Sal Church, Jabbal Husein:

Holy Saturday (14-4-90) mass at 10:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday (15-4-90) mass at 5:00 p.m.

French do not question nuclear choice

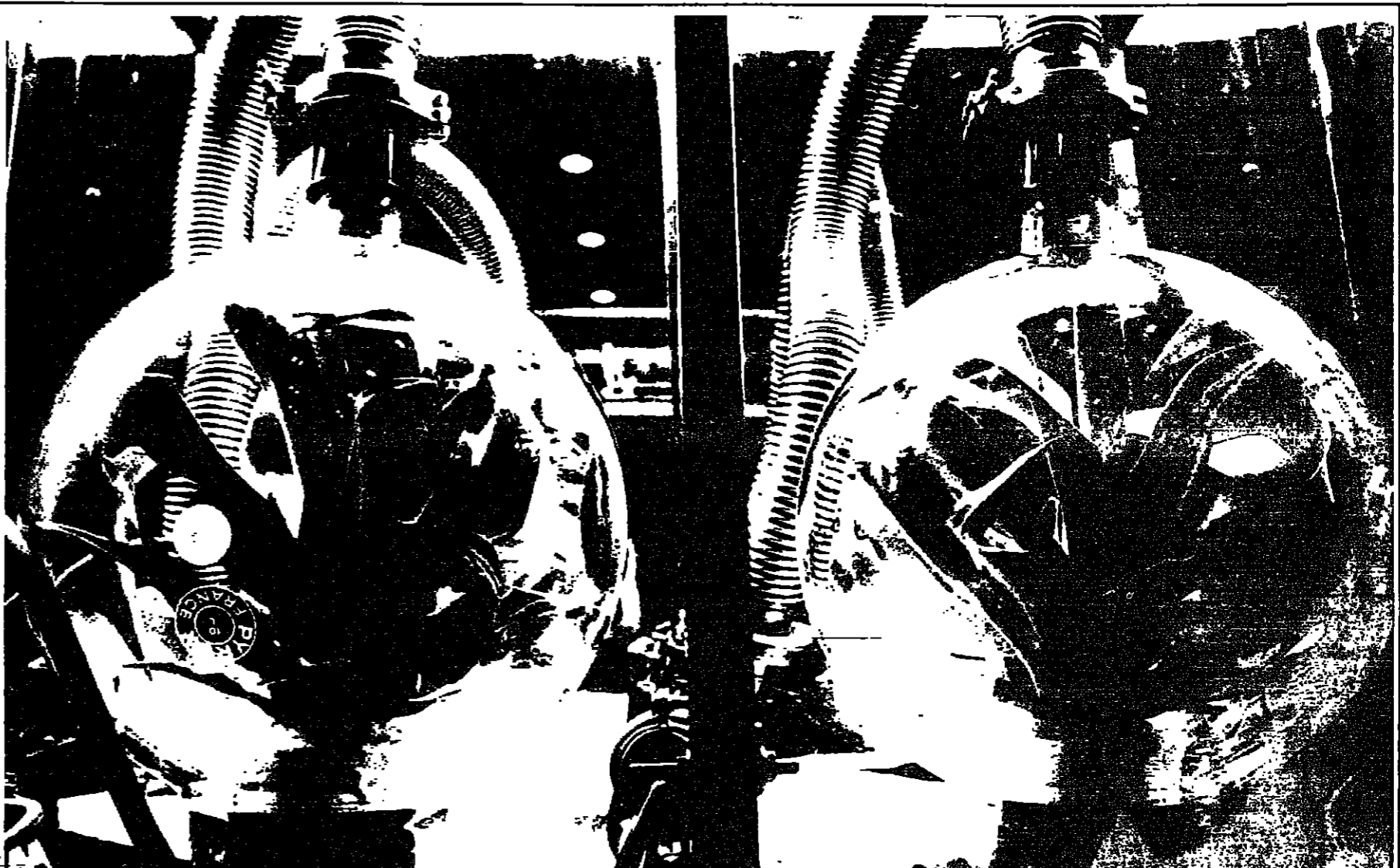
By Olivier Lord

In October 1989, the French cabinet presented guidelines aimed at promoting electro-nuclear equipment and preserving the safety and quality of nuclear installations in France, preparing the renewal of equipment in order to remain in control of the whole of the nuclear cycle, and adapting nuclear policy to the prospects of the nuclear industry and the technological needs of the country. This provides the opportunity to assess the function of the French Atomic Energy Commission (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique).

The Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), created by decree on Oct. 18, 1945, is a public research and development establishment with a scientific, technological and industrial and industrial vocation. It is the largest French research organisation in the nuclear field.

Contrary to what is happening in other countries, the French hardly question the choice which has been made to develop nuclear energy which today provides France with three quarters of her production of electricity.

In order to maintain this trust, the CEA intends to continue its research with complete openness to the public, for instance on the matter of recycling plutonium which is piling up in nuclear power stations, stocking radio-active waste, dismantling old installations and choosing reactors for the future.



The French atomic energy commission has diversified its research into informatics and bio-medical techniques etc. (Photo: Cie lat/REA)

The CEA group is made up of the Atomic Energy Commission and the CEA-Industrie company which groups together all the partners and subsidiaries of the public establishment.

The CEA group, which is particularly interested in data-processing (with the companies of the CISE group) and in bio-medical technology (with the Oris-Industrie company and its subsidiaries), is nevertheless, mainly directed towards the nuclear field from

which it makes more than nine tenths of its turnover.

The Cogéma subsidiary groups together all the activities concerning the fuel cycle, from Uranium prospecting to the packaging of waste, and the Framatome, Technicatome and STMI subsidiaries are mainly specialised in building power stations and reactors for driving naval vessels.

The CEA group has experienced considerable growth over the last decade, thanks to the development of French

nuclear programmes in civil and military areas. This enabled it to achieve a turnover of 29,206 billion francs (a third of which was obtained abroad). At the same time, the group devoted some seven billion francs to investing in the industry.

Thanks to close collaboration between its research units and its subsidiaries, it has achieved considerable technological innovations and built very modern industrial installations such as the plant at

Tricastin (in the Rhone valley), intended for the isotopic separation of uranium, as well as the various units of the nuclear waste processing plant in La Hague (on the Channel).

However, today the CEA group has to meet the challenge resulting from the considerable slowing-down in the demand for building new power stations and for nuclear engineering. In order to get through this difficult period, the group has decided to concentrate the activities of its subsidiaries on its essential business, to seek alliances with foreign partners, particularly American ones, and to develop new sectors such as optical electronics, lasers and electronic switching.

Thanks to this triple strategy, the group thus aims to be in first place when the nuclear energy industry picks up again, which it forecasts in the long term — (L'Actualité en France).

Car collectors' dream in Sofia

By Colin McIntyre
Reuters

SOPIA — Anyone interested in buying one of the world's most exclusive cars, able to seat nine, weighing two tonnes and using 30 litres of petrol per 100 kilometres, should head for Sofia.

In an austerity move the Bulgarian government is selling off its fleet of Soviet-built Chaika limousines, the black, lace-curtained monsters used only by senior Communist Party officials and visiting dignitaries until the hardline regime fell last November.

With its eight-cylinder, six-litre motor, its body-work modelled on American cars of the chrome-laden 1950s, and its cavernous interior, the virtually hand-built Chaika is a collectors' dream.

"We're getting quite a lot of interest from abroad, particularly from the United States and Western Europe," Georgi Nikolov, who is running the sale, told Reuters. The U.S. dollar price was "in five figures," he said, without specifying.

For 30 years, since the model first appeared in 1962, the vision of an approaching Chaika, in Bulgaria and elsewhere in East Europe, was the signal for police to leap into the road and stop all traffic to allow it to pass.

"So this is what caused our traffic chaos," a Bulgarian mur-

mured as he was able to carry out his first close inspection of the exclusive car in a former secret police garage where dozens are on show during April.

The government, faced with a budget deficit of \$500 million and a \$10 billion foreign debt, has decreed that in future only the nation's top four officials are entitled to a limousine.

The rest will have to make do with more modest Soviet-built Volga and Lada saloons.

The government is also selling off a large fleet of recent-model Mercedes cars used by senior government and party officials, Nikolov said.

However interest in these is expected to be limited to Bulgarians with access to hard currency, since the cars are not adapted to run on the lead-free petrol now becoming the norm in West Europe.

The organisers are not expecting much domestic interest in the Chaikas. "It is a case of: 'If you ask about the petrol consumption, you can't afford it,'" one official said.

The government has not yet decided what to do with a number of exotic items such as a hunting-Jeep "with an interesting political background," as Nikolov put it.

Former Bulgarian communist strongman Todor Zhivkov, now in disgrace facing charges of corruption and abuse of power, was an avid hunter.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

2m tickets sold for Rome games

ROME (AP) — More than two million tickets have been sold for the World Cup soccer tournament, which begins on June 8, organizers said Thursday. Adriano Botta, a spokesman for the World Cup, said officials were "more than satisfied" with the figure, which he said represents 88 per cent of the total number of tickets available. Tickets have been sold for all except the final match, scheduled to take place in Rome on July 8. Seats for that game can be obtained June 2. Botta said that ticket allocation has been tightly controlled by a specially designed computer system to ensure that rival sets of fans will be segregated inside the stadiums. The system will be put to the test on June 16 when an estimated 10,000 English and 8,000 Dutch supporters — considered Europe's most volatile — will converge on the small island of Sardinia for their teams' group F clash. Only a few hundred tickets are still available for this game. Although the tournament begins on June 8, the distribution of the tickets will be delayed until May 28 to avoid forgery and black marketeering, the officials said.

Atalanta to appeal against ruling

BERGAMO, Italy (R) — Italian soccer club Atalanta will appeal against a decision to award Napoli a 2-0 win in a league match after Napoli midfielder Alemanno was struck by a coin. Brazilian international Alemanno was hit 12 minutes before the end of Sunday's goalless draw at Atalanta's home ground in Bergamo. Italian soccer authorities awarded Napoli a 2-0 win under a ruling covering teams seriously affected by hooliganism while Atalanta were fined 30 million lire (\$24,000). "We shall lodge an appeal with the (league) disciplinary committee," Atalanta club president Cesare Bortolotti said.

Soviet star to train S. Korean team

MOSCOW (R) — Former top Soviet gymnast Nelli Kim is to train South Korea's team for the Asian Games in September, the official news agency TASS said Thursday. Kim signed a three-month contract from May 15. She will travel to Seoul with her four-year-old daughter, also called Nelli. The Soviet Union, close ally of North Korea, does not have diplomatic relations with South Korea because of the continuing enmity between the two parts of the peninsula. But trade, cultural, sports and social relations have been growing rapidly in the past few years.

Haan to join Nuremberg

NUREMBERG, West Germany (AP) — Dutch soccer coach Arie Haan, fired three weeks ago by Stuttgart, has signed a two-year contract with another West German first-division club, F.C. Nuremberg. Nuremberg's coach, Hermann Gerland, was sacked last week after criticizing club president Gerd Schmetzer in a magazine interview. Haan, a former Dutch international, will take over Nuremberg on July 1. Interim coach Dieter Lieberwirth will guide the club through the end of the current season.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
TAMAR HIRSHCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ AQJ106 ♠ Q652 ♠ K85
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—When the opponents have bid your best suit, it is almost always right to pass. If you double, you are in deep water should partner respond some number of spades. You don't have the values for a one no trump overall, which shows the equivalent of a 1 NT opening bid.
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ AQJ106 ♠ Q652 ♠ K85
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—From the auction, you know partner has some strength and some length in spades. Rather than any unilateral action, double for take-out. By implication, this suggests you could not act initially because of a strong holding in opener's suit.
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AK762 ♠ J1062 ♠ 4 ♠ Q98
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
A.—There are two schools of thought here. Some players always overcall one spade when they have a five-card suit. Others prefer a take-out double, because they don't want to lose a possible 4-4 heart fit. Our feet are in both camps, but since our spades are so much stronger than our hearts, we would vote for the overcall.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 109 ♠ 43 ♠ AJ874 ♠ AQ54
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
A.—The one action that is excluded is a bid of three clubs! That would create a game force and you are nowhere near strong enough to insist on game. The choice lies between a preference to two spades or two no trump. With so much of our strength in the unbid suit, we prefer the latter.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AKJ108 ♠ A872 ♠ Void ♠ A752
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You are certainly going to game, but you should not overlook slam just because the opponents over the bidding. Bid three clubs to see what response that elicits from partner.
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AKJ108 ♠ A872 ♠ Void ♠ A752
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—You asked partner to evaluate his club holding for game, and he has told you he is well fortified in the suit. This is not the time for dainty steps. The enormous distributional assets in your two hands merits bold action. Bid six spades.

Baseball roundup

By the Associated Press

DOUG Dascenzo hit a two-run homer and scored the go-ahead run on a passed ball Thursday as the Chicago Cubs beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-3 for a doubleheader split. Philadelphia won the first game 5-4 as Ricky Jordan drove in three runs.

Dascenzo's home run off Pat Combs tied the score 3-3 in second inning of the second game. It was Dascenzo's second home run in 218 AT-bats.

"My plan was to hit the first pitch because it might be the only good pitch I was going to get," said Dascenzo, who batted 165 last season. "But I'm going to take a swing at it and get some good lumber on it."

Chicago's Ryan Sandberg played his 92nd consecutive errorless game in the opener to set a major league record for second basemen over two seasons. Sandberg also was errorless in the second game.

"I wasn't even thinking about the record, only winning two games," Sandberg said. "It's a lot of hard work."

Jose Nunez got his first National League victory in the second game, allowing six hits in five innings. Mitch Williams pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

In New York, Barry Bonds drove in three runs and threw out a runner at the plate. Bonds, the subject of trade rumors throughout the winter, had a two-run single in the second inning and an RBI double in the seventh.

Neal Heaton pitched out of trouble in four of his five innings. He allowed one unearned run and six hits before Doug Bair relieved to start the sixth.

Sid Fernandez allowed five runs and four hits in six innings. In San Diego, Joe Carter's two-run single, his first hit in 15 AT-bats, broke an eighth-inning tie.

The Padres loaded the bases with no outs on two walks by Don Asse and an error by shortstop Alfredo Griffin, and Carter and Benito Santiago hit two-run singles for an 8-4 lead.

Calvin Schiraldi went 1-2-3 in his first start. Craig Letteri, the sixth Padres pitcher, gave up a two-out, two-run single to pinch hitter Mike Sharperson in the ninth, but retired Jeff Hamilton on a fly ball with two runners on base to end the game.

In Atlanta, Will Clark drove in three runs with a pair of hits and finished the three-game series 7-for-12 with five RBIs. The Giants had 14 hits in their second rout of Atlanta in three games.

Mike Lacoss won his first start of the season, allowing five hits and one run in five innings, walking four and striking out four. Jeff Brantley pitched 3-2-3 hitless innings for his first save.

Brett Butler walked five times, tying the major league record held by many. It was done last by Atlanta's Dale Murphy on May 23, 1987, against Chicago.

It was just like old times at Yankee stadium Thursday. Dave Winfield and Don Mattingly were rapping the ball.

Winfield and Mattingly did the early damage and pinch-hitter Luis Polonia singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning Thursday as the Yankees beat the Cleveland Indians 6-4 in a twice-delayed season opener.

"To get the first hit, to score the first run, it felt good," said Winfield, who missed the 1989 season following back surgery. "Everything I do is kind of new. It's like I'm a rookie."

Winfield went 1-for-29 in spring training, fueling speculation he might not be able to come back at age 38. But led off the second inning with a hard double down the left-field line for his first official hit in 568 days.

Mattingly, who signed a new \$19 million, five-year contract last week, worried all winter about another of his notorious slow starts. He is a career 285 hitter in April, 47 points below his lifetime average, and hit just 221 with no home runs and zero RBIs in last year's first month. This time he had two hits and singled home a run.

"I really spent a lot of time this spring trying to think about a good start," Mattingly said. "I've set my mind to it."

A crowd of 50,114 saw the Yankees win their fifth straight opener. The Indians, who led American League teams with a 10-5 record in spring training, lost their formal debut under manager John McNamara.

In Detroit — Lou Whitaker hit his 150th career homer, and Tony Phillips had four hits as Detroit snapped an 11-game losing streak against Boston.

The victory kept the Tigers from matching their longest regular-season losing streak to one team. Detroit lost 12 straight to Minnesota from May 14-April 12, 1989, and to Cleveland in 1950 and 1951.

The Red Sox, who opened with three straight wins for the first time since 1965, remained one win short of 7,000.

Urbano Lugo, who took over for Frank Tanana in the fifth, got his first win for Detroit. Boston rookie Mike Rockford pitched 1

2-3 innings, giving up six runs, four earned, on five hits in his first major league decision.

In Toronto, Kelly Gruber hit a three-run homer and Fred McGriff hit his first home run in 108 AT-bats.

McGriff's second-inning homer off Jamie Moyer (0-1) tied the game 1-1. McGriff led the American League with 36 home runs last season, but his last homer was on Sept. 4 against the Chicago White Sox at Comiskey Park.

Manny Lee's RBI single in the fourth gave Toronto a 2-1 lead and the Blue Jays broke open the game with four runs in the seventh.

Pat Borders homered off Moyer and Gruber hit a three-run homer off Kenny Rogers, Gruber's third hit of the game.

Mike Flanagan (1-0) allowed five singles in five innings, struck out one and walked none.

In Anaheim, California, Kirk McCaskill pitched California to its third straight victory, and third baseman Gary Gaetti's two errors led to three unearned runs.

McCaskill allowed three hits in six innings, walked five and struck out one. Minnesota loaded the bases in the third off Greg Minton on two-out singles by Greg Gagne and pinch-hitter Jim Dwyer and John Moses's walk.

In Kansas City, Missouri, the final game of a three-game series between Kansas City and Baltimore was postponed by rain Thursday after a one-hour, 39-minute wait. No makeup date was announced.

The rain wiped out the first start for the season for Storm Davis of the Royals and Pete Harnisch of the Orioles.

ETTU admits Israel

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Israel, excluded from the Asian table tennis union by their political opponents, were admitted to the European body instead Friday.

The biennial meeting of the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) voted unanimously to allow Israel to join after changing their constitution to permit a country without a land frontier with Europe to be affiliated.

Officials in Gothenburg said the move would allow Israel to compete at the next European championships in Stuttgart, West Germany, in 1992.

Israel, as members of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), are eligible to compete at the world championships but their request for European affiliation had been turned down before.

They were kept out of the 1987 and 1975 world championships in India when the Indian government, which has no diplomatic ties with Israel and supports the Palestinians refused to issue visas for their players.

At last year's world event in Dortmund, West Germany, India refused to play Israel and were relegated to 32nd place in the team rankings as a punishment.

Pakistan, which also has no diplomatic links with Israel, failed to appear for their team match between the two sides but world championship officials accepted the Pakistan's excuse that they had misread the starting time.

Waldegaard leads in Safari Rally

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Bjorn Waldegaard of Sweden took the lead as less than half the starters in the Marlboro Safari Rally entered the second stage of their grueling five-day race Friday.

Mechanical failures and atrocious road conditions knocked out 33 of the 58 cars that left Nairobi Thursday on a 1,147-kilometre (712-mile) first sector loop in southeastern Kenya.

Waldegaard, driving a Toyota Celica GT4, snatched the lead halfway in the first sector after the engine of the Subaru Legacy driven by Markku Alen of Finland blew.

Departing Nairobi in the second sector, Waldegaard had lost 3 hours 24 minutes 58 seconds. Close behind him was world and Safari Rally champion Massimo Biasion of Italy with 3 hours 39 minutes 51 seconds in penalty points.

The Italian-made Lancia, also the world and Safari Rally champion, was under pressure from the Japanese-made Subaru and Toyota.

The four-wheel drive Toyota and Subaru are making their debut in the Safari Rally, challenging the Lancia, winner in 1988 and 1989.

But the three-car Lancia team remained in the top ten spots, fending off three Toyotas, four Subarus, a Nissan 200 SX and a Mitsubishi Galant.

The 623.95-kilometre (386.8 mile) second sector route takes the vehicles in a loop around the perpetually snow-covered Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest peak.

The route passes through slippery bends in banana, coffee and tea plantations and forests in one of the East African nation's most heavily populated areas.

The 38th version of the Safari Rally is divided into six sectors which in turn are split into 83 sections. Drivers are required to cover the sector in predetermined time and are awarded penalty points for every minute they are late. The seconds were accumulated in a special speed race Wednesday in a Nairobi suburb.

Survivors of the 4,000-kilometre (2,480-mile) five-day race would have conquered shoulder-high grass, razor-sharp rocks, slippery hairpins, flooded rivers, and quagmires in volcanic ashes and what is locally known as black cotton soil that soaks in no water.

Drivers also face other hazards, including excited stone throwing tribal villagers, herds of cattle and goats and wild animals that often block the roads.

The race began in 1953 as the coronation Safari in honour of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

In the early days, drivers raced family cars with spouses and friends as repair crews. However, in the last twenty years or so the Safari Rally has attracted world-class drivers racing special factory-prepared vehicles and accompanied by mobile workshops.

The cars surviving the second sector are expected in Nairobi late Friday. Weathermen said they would be driving most of the day in heavy rains.

Bayern Munich stretches lead

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich moved a step closer to retaining their West German soccer title with a confident 3-0 victory over Kaiserslautern Thursday.

In a full league programme brought forward two days to allow for an Easter break, Bayern stretched their lead to four points with just five matches remaining.

Bayern, who meet A.C. Milan in the second leg of their European Cup semifinal next week, have started to hit form just as the challenge of main rivals Bayer Leverkusen diminishes.

After a goalless draw with VFB Stuttgart last Saturday, Leverkusen dropped another vital point in a 1-1 home draw with

Bayer Uerdingen.

With West German international midfielder Olaf Thon in superb form again after recently returning from almost six months absence through injury, Bayern never looked in danger of losing after Ludwig Kogel put them ahead in the fifth minute.

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PLAZA

SUMMER JOB

Assam militants bomb Indian trains; 15 killed

India, Pakistan play down reported Kashmir border clash

NEW DELHI (R) — India does not want a war with Pakistan over disputed Kashmir because a war would endanger the democratic government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a top Indian official said Friday.

"Nobody wants a war," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"But if they do try something, they'll get hammered. Boy, would they get hammered. And this has been conveyed to the other side," the official said in an interview.

The two countries have downplayed border skirmishes in Kashmir where bitter words over an anti-Indian uprising have stoked fears of war.

Predominantly Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, since they became independent in 1947. Pakistan now controls one-third of the state.

Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh told Pakistan this week it could not wrest Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, away without a war and India would make it pay a heavy price if it tried.

The United News of India said five Pakistani soldiers and one Indian were killed in border skirmishes Thursday. The Indian Defence Ministry said it could not confirm the report.

"It may have happened, but I have no confirmation here," a ministry spokesman said. "In any case, such incidents often take place and a new one would be nothing unusual."

In Islamabad, a military source said one Indian soldier had been hit in a skirmish, but the source, too, said this was nothing out of the ordinary in a Kashmir sector where exchanges of fire occur almost daily.

An uprising that started in Indian-held Kashmir in mid-January provoked accusations from Delhi that the militants leading it were being armed and trained by Pakistan.

Islamabad denies the charge. It occasionally counters with accusations that India is behind the sporadic unrest in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city.

The Indian official, an influential member of Singh's minority government, said that was not true.

"They've been causing trouble for us in Punjab and Kashmir," he said.

"We have an even far greater capability to cause them trouble inside Pakistan. But we haven't, and we won't, because we don't want to do anything that would undermine Bhutto's democracy in Pakistan," he said.

Bhutto came to power in November, 1988, in elections following the death of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq in a mysterious plane crash. India, proud of its own democracy, had never trusted a man it regarded as a military dictator.

Ties between South Asia's two greatest antagonists began to improve after the return of democracy to Pakistan and Bhutto's election, but increasing warmth turned to ice with the start of the insurrection in the Kashmir Valley.

United Nations' observers monitor a 1,400-kilometer ceasefire line that divides the Himalayan territory of Kashmir, wedged between China, India and Pakistan.

Bhutto has only a narrow parliamentary majority and faces a strong opposition on the right determined to bring her down.

"She has to make certain noises and sound more fundamentalist than the fundamentalists," the Indian official said. "We understand that. We have to make certain noises, too."

"In 1965 and 1971 they wanted war," he said, referring to the two previous wars over Kashmir. "I don't think they really want war this time. But it all depends on whether the (Pakistan) generals are trying to get rid of Bhutto."

Meanwhile, six people, including a woman, were killed after a fire in a mosque in the riot-torn western Indian city of Baroda, police said Friday.

Police patrolled the streets and extended an evening curfew to other parts of Baroda after the six were stabbed to death on Thursday night, bringing to 18 the number killed in sectarian riots in the city since April 6.

The latest incident erupted after riots were set ablaze in a mosque. Angry Muslims, suspecting it was started by Hindus, took to the streets and the clashes began.

Police said there were several reports of arson and stone-throwing Friday afternoon in the city of two million, 100 kilometers south of the ancient walled city of Ahmedabad, where over 40 people have died in religious riots this month.

Chimabhai Patel, chief minister of Gujarat state, rushed to Baroda from a meeting in New Delhi and told reporters Friday he would curb the riots "with a heavy hand."

The recent violence in the state

began on April 3 and stems from political uncertainties after the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party made strong gains in February's state assembly elections, political analysts in Gujarat said.

In a separate development, Bodo tribal militants derailed two passenger trains with bombs in the northeast Indian state of Assam and killed at least 15 people, the United News of India reported Friday.

It said more than 50 people were injured when two time bombs blew up railway tracks in Assam's Kokrajhar district Thursday night.

The Press Trust of India put the toll at 13 but quoted official sources as saying it could go higher.

At least 22 people were killed Thursday by Bodo bombs. Earlier, a bomb which police said was detonated by remote control blew up a truck, killing seven people and injuring 10.

Assam is one of the most important tea-growing areas of India, the world's biggest tea producer and exporter.

The state's land links to the rest of India were cut after suspected Bodo guerrillas blew up a bridge on the main highway and railway authorities suspended all traffic into and out of Assam, the agencies added.

The bombings marked a new peak in the long-running Bodo fight for their own state within India.

In Calcutta, tea industry sources said a spate of killings and kidnappings by another militant group had created panic among Assam growers.

On Monday suspected members of the secessionist United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) ambushed and killed Surendra Paul, chairman of a large tea company.

U.S. expert predicts arms pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Soviet negotiators should be able to iron out major differences in a strategic arms treaty before a May summit, and to sign the pact late this year or early next, a senior U.S. negotiator said Thursday.

That appraisal by negotiator Ronald Lehman was more optimistic than comments from other U.S. officials last week after a meeting between Secretary of State James A. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"I think it is highly likely we will get all the major issues resolved by the summit," said Lehman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Lehman, who oversees all U.S.-Soviet arms talks, made his comments in an interview with the Associated Press.

In Moscow, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev also expressed optimism about his planned five-day meeting with U.S. President George Bush in Washington from May 30-June 4.

Gorbachev said he was determined to sign the framework for a strategic arms deal at the summit, U.S. Senate majority leader George Mitchell told reporters after he and six other senators met with Gorbachev at his Kremlin office.

Mitchell said Gorbachev "stressed his determination" to make enough progress on a treaty

cutting long-range nuclear weapons to allow it to be initiated at the summit.

U.S. officials were pessimistic after the latest Baker-Shevardnadze meeting. At that session, Soviet negotiators made proposals that U.S. officials said rolled back provisions that the two men had agreed during a February meeting in Moscow.

Specifically, the Soviets sought to revise the rules under which the number of air-launched cruise missiles are counted, trying to include such missiles carried by tactical fighters as well as heavy bombers, according to U.S. officials.

The United States wants the rules to cover only heavy bombers and to count only those air-launched cruise missiles with ranges beyond 965 kilometers. The Soviets want to count all such missiles with ranges of more than 579 kilometers.

The Soviets also revived a demand they had dropped last fall that the proposed strategic arms reduction treaty (START) require the two sides to declare limits on the number of sea-launched cruise missiles they would deploy.

Bush administration officials have said they are willing to issue a separate declaration specifying the maximum number of sea-launched missiles they plan to deploy, but don't want that statement required by the strategic arms treaty.

The Americans also do not want the sea-launched missiles covered by START provisions that limit each side to 6,000 warheads and 1,600 delivery vehicles.

U.S. officials have said they were not sure whether the Soviets had changed positions as a tactic to increase pressure seven weeks before the summit, or because they were preoccupied with domestic turmoil.

Lehman said he thought disagreement over cruise missiles could be ironed out before Gorbachev's scheduled arrival in Washington.

"But I cannot guarantee that," Lehman said. "If so, I think we should be able to conclude a START treaty by the end of the year or early next year."

Lehman declined to discuss a reported U.S. proposal to limit the number of multiple-warhead mobile missiles on each side. He referred reporters to Baker's comment last week that "there are some things we just don't comment on, and particularly if there's some chance that they are under consideration as part of our negotiations."

One U.S. official, who spoke on condition that he not be further identified, predicted that the issue would not "hang up START."

Despite disagreements over cruise missiles, the two sides have reached agreement on most of the proposed 500-page treaty, U.S. officials have said.

Radical Moscow city deputies prepare big reform package

MOSCOW (R) — New radical members of the Moscow City Council plan a series of dramatic reforms aimed at undoing more than 70 years of Communist rule blamed for the Soviet capital's crumbling infrastructure.

Proposed measures include moving overcrowded families into thousands of flats kept empty by the city, repairing deteriorating roads and buildings, and providing unprecedented benefits to Western firms doing business in the capital.

The reformers, who also came to power in Leningrad and several other urban centers after elections last month, control 60 per cent of the seats in the capital's new city council, which holds its first session Monday.

They are also expected to propel radical economist Gavril Popov into the mayor's office. He would be the first from outside the Communist Party apparatus to take the key post.

"Each deputy group within the city council has its own position," a reformist deputy told the government daily Izvestia. "However, they all have the same goal — quickly uplift Moscow from its serious conditions."

In this capital of nine million, considered for decades the centerpiece of socialism, many extended families are forced to live together in small flats, cars must dodge huge potholes and buildings lie in disrepair.

Andrei Stroyev, president of the state-owned construction firm responsible for the city's infrastructure, said the weak Soviet economy has made it virtually impossible to curb decay.

"There aren't enough funds to repair the roads. We can't afford to... fix the buildings because of fixed prices," he said in an interview, referring to the centrally planned economy.

"Salaries and equipment cost four or five times what they did when the prices were set 10 years ago."

The radical city council deputies, members of a group called Democratic Russia, have suggested an economic reform package, including incentives for Western firms to do business in Moscow.

Foreign firms would find it easier to lease office space — now in short supply — and receive services, such as day care for

employees' children, and office repairs, according to Communist, a well-connected business weekly.

The increase in Western business would generate foreign currency the city could use to buy desperately needed consumer goods from the West, Communist reported.

If the newly elected radicals succeed in pushing through their proposals, Moscow could become a testing ground for other cities, such as Leningrad, which are also in shambles.

But the deputies could also be embarking on a collision course with the Kremlin.

One city council member said a blast at reformers from the Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee last week could force the expulsion of the radicals from the party.

The current purge will force most of the Democratic Russia deputies in the city council to leave the party and exacerbate confrontation with the officials of the city council and those who represent the interest of the party apparatus in Moscow," he told the independent news service Postfactum.

E. Germany ready for unity talks

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Newly named Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere says he is ready to begin the process of uniting economically troubled East Germany with powerful West Germany.

"I am very satisfied all the excitement of the last days and weeks is over and we can get down to work," he told West German television Thursday.

One of De Maiziere's first acts was to ease travel rules between the two Germanys during the four-day Easter holiday that starts Friday.

Parliament chose De Maiziere as prime minister Thursday and embraced the Christian Democratic leader's sweeping plan for

rapidly uniting West Germany.

The nation's first freely elected legislature also apologized for Nazi atrocities and promised to make reparations to Israel and seek diplomatic ties.

By approving De Maiziere's broad coalition cabinet, parliament set up a transitional government whose main task will be to negotiate the terms of creating a single Germany.

Before parliament met, the coalition members agreed that a united Germany should remain part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and that East Germany should merge its currency with West Germany's by July 1.

De Maiziere indicated he would defend the interests of his countrymen who fear that unification could leave them second-class citizens once the Germans unite.

"I want us to go into unification as upright and self-confident people," De Maiziere said. Asked how he felt about negotiating with powerful Bonn, De Maiziere told West German television, "I know the story of David and Goliath."

He also said reunification may not come next year, as West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has projected. "It can be realistic, but it doesn't have to be realistic," he said of Kohl's prediction.

Prolonged crisis looms in Soviet Union — CIA chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director William H. Webster foresees a "deep and prolonged" crisis in which a deteriorating economy and ethnic unrest will accompany Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

U.S. specialists on the Soviet Union generally agreed with the assessment offered by Webster in a speech in Boston Thursday, although some said better times may be ahead for the Soviet economy.

Webster, addressing the World Affairs Council of Boston, said, "the crisis we now see in the USSR will likely be deep and prolonged."

"Gorbachev's reforms have undermined the Stalinist system that he inherited and have put the Soviet Union on the road to a new political system, but the new system that he is trying to create is not yet ready to take the place of the old one that he has discarded," the CIA chief said.

"Economic conditions have deteriorated. Crime is increasing. Ethnic turmoil is escalating. And now Moscow faces perhaps its greatest challenge — attempts by individual states to secede from the union."

"Gorbachev has some very unhappy consumers on his hands," Webster said.

Eric Green, Soviet analyst with the American committee on U.S. Soviet relations, agreed, saying, "they perceive that the situation is getting worse in terms of food and it is exacerbated by the fact that their wages are increasing without any increase in goods to buy. There are some indications that this could lead to widespread unrest."

Vladimir Petrov, professor emeritus of international affairs at Georgetown University, acknowledged concern about Gorbachev's future.

"For a while he could get away with it because everybody realized the economy was in such a mess that no one could be held responsible," Petrov said. "But now that he has achieved the ultimate power, he is the man to point at."

But "to challenge him you would need somebody and something which today in my view simply is not available," Petrov said.

Stephen F. Cohen, professor of politics and director of Russian studies at Princeton University, said Webster's dark assessment was "just one side of the story."

It's the downside of the story. I think there's an upside of the story, too," he said.

Poll: Bush is popular among blacks

NEW YORK (AP) — President George Bush is popular among U.S. blacks, according to a poll released Thursday.

Bush got an approval rating of 56 per cent among blacks, far exceeding the 13 per cent that his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, got after about the same amount of time.

The poll was sponsored by the CBS television network and the New York Times newspaper.

In May 1982, in the middle of his first term, Reagan had a 73 per cent disapproval rate among blacks, while the current poll indicates that just 26 per cent of blacks disapprove of Bush, said Kathy Frankovich of the TV network's polling division.

CBS-Times polls conducted during Reagan's entire time in office found that he had an average 67 per cent disapproval rate among blacks, Frankovich said.

For the last 30 years, five out of six blacks have voted for the Democratic presidential candidate, no matter who the nominee was. But CBS said Thursday's poll indicated that 9 per cent of blacks would vote for Bush if an election were held today, while an additional 20 per cent said they would wait to see who the Democratic nominee was before deciding.

The poll of 403 blacks was conducted between March 30 and April 2 and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Bush was also far more popular among blacks than other recent Republican presidents, CBS said.

Bush in excellent shape

Meanwhile Bush underwent a medical exam Thursday and was pronounced in excellent shape by the White House doctor.

"President Bush is in truly excellent health," White House physician Burton Lee said in a written statement. "He continues to keep extremely fit through vigorous physical activities."

Dr. Lee said the 65-year-old Bush has "early glaucoma" in his left eye and will receive eye drops two times daily to control the condition, which can cause blindness if untreated. Lee said the test showed the disease had not affected Bush's vision.

Glaucoma is characterized by increased pressure within the eye. It can generally be arrested if detected early.

Lee also said a chest X-ray, electrocardiogram, urinalysis, blood and stress tests were all normal. X-rays of the hips and neck showed mild arthritis, but Bush has had that for some time.

Kremlin admits responsibility for Katyn massacre

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union admitted officially Friday that its secret police were responsible for the 1940 massacre of thousands of Polish officers at Katyn.

TASS news agency said the Soviet government expressed its deepest regrets over the incident and that it was one of the worst Stalinist crimes.

It was the first time Moscow had officially admitted responsibility for the killing. For more than 45 years the Kremlin had maintained it was the work of German Nazis.

TASS said recently discovered documents had shown that just under 15,000 Polish officers were handed over to the NKVD, predecessor of the KGB security police, in April and May of 1940. There was no further record of them.

The new material showed that the NKVD was directly responsible for "the evil deed in the Katyn Wood," TASS said.

The documents had been handed over to Polish authorities.

Chinese police clamp down on Peking students

PEKING (Agencies) — Chinese security forces have stepped up surveillance and arrests of suspected members of a nascent underground democracy movement ahead of key dates heavy with symbolism for student radicals.

Sunday is the first anniversary of the death of reformist former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang which ignited last year's student-led democracy movement — bloody crushed two months later by the People's Liberation Army.

Student and other sources say a small army of undercover agents has infiltrated university campuses posing as workers, academics and market vendors. Police strength in the capital has also been reinforced.

Since late March, an unknown number of students and teachers believed to have been involved in the underground movement have been arrested in at least six universities, said the sources, including an official who asked not to be identified.

They said authorities were determined to combat calls for pro-democracy protests to mark a series of sensitive dates in coming weeks starting with the marking of Hu's death.

May 4, the anniversary of a 1919 student protest movement which added impetus to last year's demonstrations, and May 13, the start of the student hunger strike which captured the imagination of China, may also be tense, the sources said.

Last week, the first issue of an underground newspaper called Steel Currents was distributed in Peking University — a hotbed of unrest during last year's protests finally suppressed by the army in Tiananmen Square in June.

"Now is the time to lay the foundations of a new, stronger democracy movement. Our first step is to create an opposition force that can unite or disperse on command," the one-page mimeographed broadsheet stated.

It was similar in content to an appeal, faxed from abroad, that urged Peking people to mourn those killed in June by taking a "big walk" to Tiananmen Square during last week's traditional Qing Ming festival honoring the dead.

According to an internal party report, officials in the capital received thousands of unsigned letters, mailed within Peking, calling for a silent march to Tiananmen on April 5, said the

official who is briefed on senior leadership meetings.

"The central committee fears these internally mailed letters are one of several signs that leaders of the Chinese Democracy Movement in exile have finally linked up with their counterparts within the country," he added.

"This is their first jointly orchestrated protest," he said.

The government responded by redeploying troops and police throughout the capital, sealing off the square, and warning Peking residents that going near it would be dangerous.

Armed with automatic rifles, police patrolled the university district in motorcycles with sidecars.

But since last month, anti-government posters and leaflets have frequently appeared at leading universities.

A Qing Ming elegy signed by "the Dauntless Spirit of Peking University" called for a nationwide memorial for the young people killed last June, and the condemnation of leaders who ordered the shootings.

Party leaders ordered a search, concentrated on Peking University, for the organizers of these clandestine activities.

"The government is trying to crush the movement by breaking the spirit of Peking University," said one student activist.

Activists say they have adopted guerrilla propaganda tactics in response to the surveillance and arrests at gunpoint.

Pains to march to Tiananmen Square, the focus of last year's movement in the heart of Peking were abandoned.

Instead of holding large scale demonstrations, we realize now that we must stage spot protests and immediate retreat underground," said one student.

Pop singer Hou Dejian, who tried to negotiate a peaceful withdrawal of students from Tiananmen Square before the army turned on them, endorsed the decision to abandon a march.

"The students were right not to return to the square in the face of the government's military encirclement of Tiananmen," said Hou, now China's only public dissident.

"We must apply enough pressure on the government to show we will not forget the massacre or our fight for democracy."

"But," he added, "we must not lose any more of our youth to the party's bullets and prisons."



August Wilson wins Pulitzer Prize

NEW YORK (R) — America's premier black playwright, August Wilson, has won his second Pulitzer Prize for drama for his play "The Piano Lesson."

The Pulitzer Prize for foreign reporting went to the New York Times for its coverage of China's suppression of pro-democracy protests in Peking last June. Veteran Asian freelance reporter Stanley Karnow won the Pulitzer Prize in history for his gripping account of America's role in the Philippines — "In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines."

The Pulitzer Prizes are America's premier awards in journalism and the arts. The top public service award for journalism was shared by two journalists, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Washington Daily News of Washington, North Carolina. The Inquirer won for reporting by Gilbert Gaul that disclosed how the American industry of buying and selling blood operated with little government regulation or supervision.

The Washington Daily News won for its series on how its city's water supply was contaminated by carcinogens, a problem that the local government had neither disclosed nor corrected over a period of eight years. The general news reporting award went to the San Jose Mercury News of San Jose, California, for its detailed coverage of the Oct. 17, 1989 San Francisco Bay area earthquake.

'Extraordinary amounts' of money found

VEGA BAJA, Puerto Rico (AP) — Residents of this coastal town have been spending wildly after finding "extraordinary amounts of money" that drug dealers may have buried in steel drums, officials said.

U.S. Attorney Daniel Lopez Romo said in a telephone interview from San Juan that the FBI began interviewing residents two weeks ago, after word spread that several people went on a spending binge following the discovery of the steel drums. "We know one drum had \$1.5 million and there were several drums. So you can speculate that we're talking about extraordinary amounts of money," Lopez said. People stopped in the street here told a reporter little, giving differing versions of where the steel drums were buried. Some said it was in a farmer's field, others the beach. Lopez said location of the buried treasure couldn't be disclosed because "there would be a gold rush to the site." He said it's not known where the money came from, but it's believed the drums packed with cash belonged to drug traffickers. "That's one of the strongest possibilities, but I can't say with certainty," he said. "It's probable that somebody knew where it was buried and they blew the whistle."

He said officials became suspicious because residents were spending "100,000 dollars, 200,000 dollars and 300,000 dollars, great sums," in luxury items. Newspaper said local sales of houses, boats, cars and VCRs were brisk until a car mechanic paid \$170,000 in cash for a house and a sports car and deposited \$50,000 in a bank. Bank officials got suspicious and called the authorities, according to the reports. Vega Baja is a coastal area of 30,000 people about 55 kilometers west of San Juan, the capital.

Woman gives birth on board airliner

PRAGUE (AP) — A West German woman gave birth to a baby on board a Czechoslovak airliner, with assistance from a Malaysian doctor on the flight, the Czechoslovak News Agency CTK said. The birth occurred during a flight to Frankfurt from Jakarta, Indonesia, CTK said. It identified the mother as Dona Purwant, 35, and said her newborn daughter was in good condition. A doctor, travelling with the Malaysian soccer team to Bratislava, was called upon to assist during delivery, CTK said. The baby girl was the first to be born aboard a Czechoslovak airliner, CTK said.

Children find bones of mammoth

ROME (R) — Children hunting for wild asparagus in hills north of Rome Thursday found the skeleton of a mammoth, the gigantic elephant that roamed Europe in prehistoric times. Police quoted a Rome historian who examined the skeleton, found near the village of Rignano Flaminio, as saying it was between 600,000 and one million years old.